

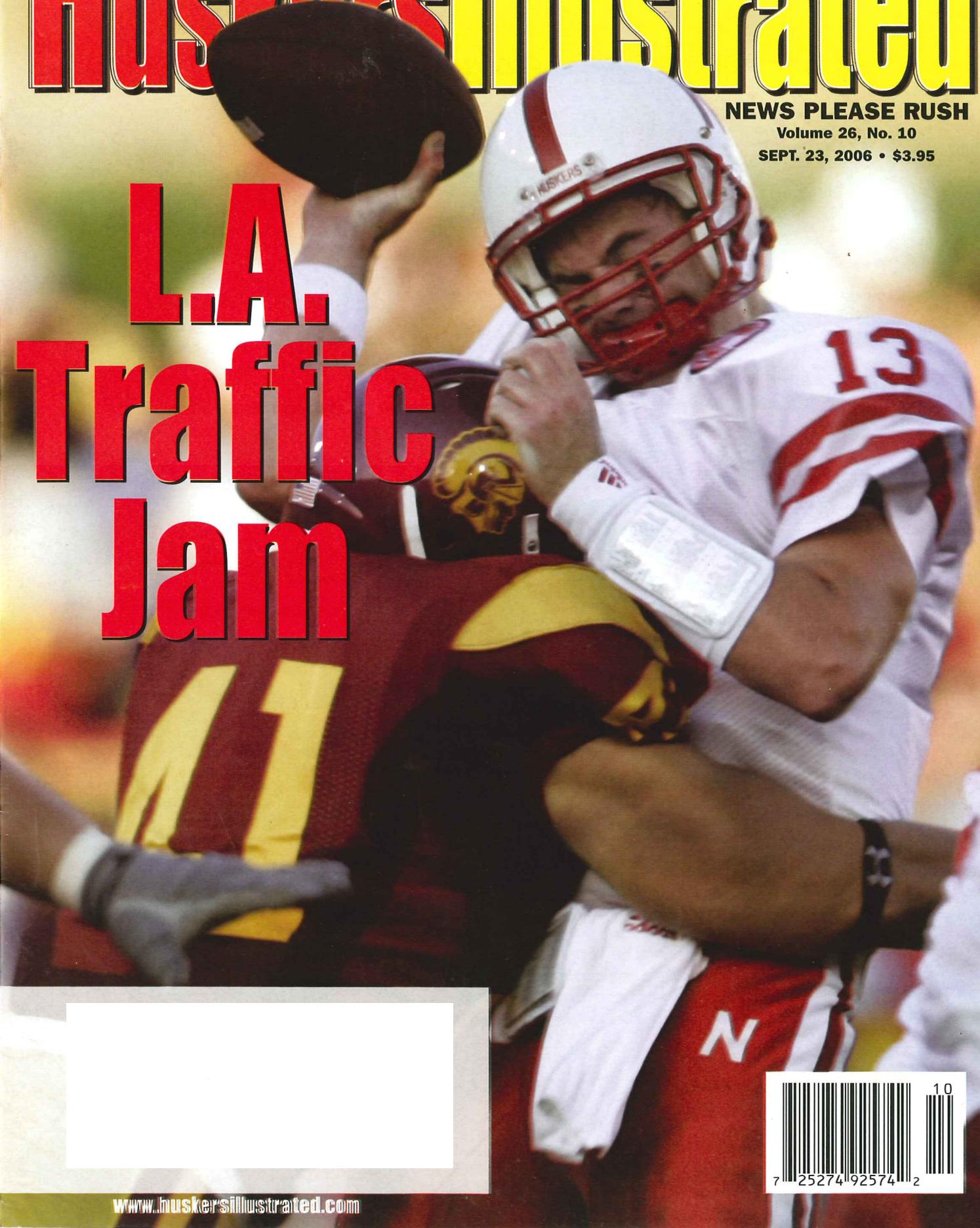
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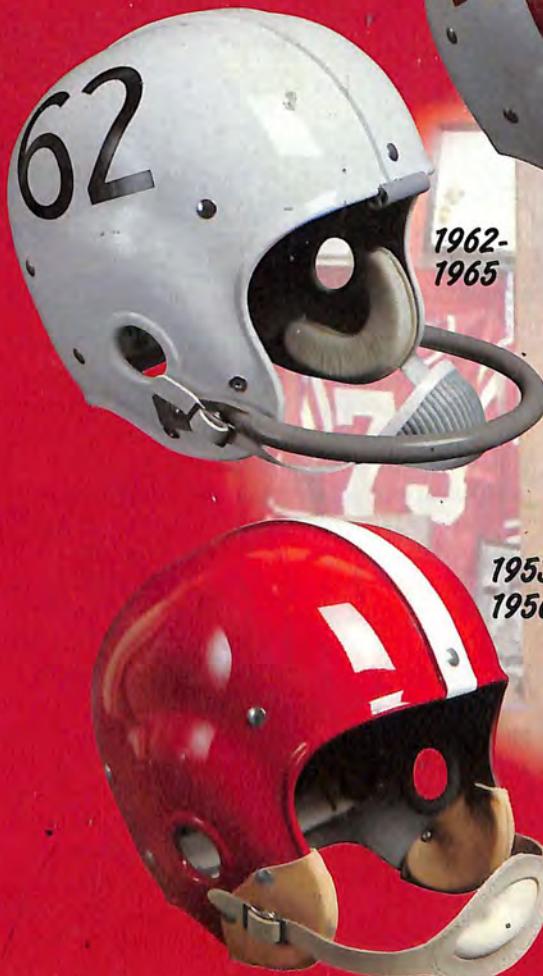
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FROM THE EDITOR

Little Room To Run

Huskers turn to ground game, but USC's defense clamps down



**Brian
HILL**

THE EARLY RETURNS appeared to be divided. While some thought they were watching a rerun of a past Nebraska offense and wondered why the Huskers hadn't brought the West Coast offense with them to Los Angeles, others thought it was the right thing to do.

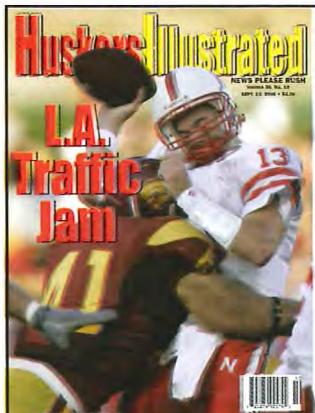
After showing a well-balanced offense in two easy victories to start the season, Nebraska ran the football 36 times, while attempting 17 passes in a 28-10 loss to Southern California before a crowd of 92,000 at the historic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and an ABC-TV audience.

As a near three-touchdown underdog, NU coaches decided that running right at the speedy and talented USC defense was the best tactic. It worked at times, but the average per rush was just 1.9 yards.

Quarterback Zac Taylor, who had passed for 489 yards and seven touchdowns in the first two games, finished 8-of-16 for 115 yards. Until the last play of the third quarter — a 36-yard pass to tight end Matt Herian — the longest pass play had come on a trick play, when punter Dan Titchener hit wide receiver Todd Peterson in stride for a 28-yard gain on NU's second possession.

Although Nebraska appeared to be in business at the USC 36, that drive stalled, and the Huskers' only touchdown would come, ironically, on a 1-yard bootleg run by Taylor early in the fourth quarter.

NU's strategy to try and keep the



ON THE COVER

Nebraska quarterback Zac Taylor takes a hard hit from USC linebacker Thomas Williams in the second quarter. The sack for an 11-yard loss was the Trojans' only one, but they put constant pressure on Taylor in a 28-10 win. *Cover photo by Scott Bruhn.*

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Both Sides Now

In a meeting following spring practice, coach Bill Callahan told Clayton Sievers the coaches were considering using him in some defensive packages this season. Sievers, a tight end at the time, figured the plan was to include him in nickel packages, primarily as a pass rusher.

Then, a week or so before the start of training camp, he found out he would have more than a bit part on defense; he would be moving from tight end to strongside linebacker.

The coaches liked his size and speed. Plus, they were looking to the future. Stewart Bradley, the starting strongside linebacker, is a senior, "so they wanted some more depth over there to get ready for next year," said Sievers, who expected to be backing up junior Lance Brandenburgh.

When sophomore Phillip Dillard was lost to a knee injury suffered in the opening game against Louisiana Tech, however, Brandenburgh was moved to middle linebacker behind Corey McKeon, and Sievers moved up to second on the depth chart behind Bradley. Such is football.

What isn't football at this level, in this day and age, is a player seeing action on defense and offense. Few players do. That makes Sievers, a sophomore from Elkhorn, Neb., an exception. He's a linebacker now, and a pass rusher in nickel packages. But he remains a tight end, on occasion, too.

"I'm just a run-blocker on short yardage now," Sievers said.

His size — 6-foot-4, 240 pounds — and tenacity are well-suited to the task.

Sievers was a defensive end-outside linebacker and tight end-fullback in high school, earning second-team all-state recognition as a defensive player. But he was recruited as a tight end, or at least that was his position preference. The coaches left it up to him. "It was totally my call," he said.

He played in every game as a redshirted freshman, at tight end, starting three times and catching six passes for 39 yards. In the spring, he worked at H-back, along with J.B. Phillips.

Moving from offense to defense hasn't been too difficult, said Sievers. Even though the offensive playbook is "about 3 inches" thick, he only has to remember some of what's in it — the short-yardage stuff. And since he had to learn it last season, now "it's just repetition," he said.



Clayton Sievers caught six passes last season as a tight end.

Scott Bruhn

Typically, he spends time with the offense on Wednesdays, the day the offense does its short-yardage work, and he meets with tight ends coach Shawn Watson "once or twice a week, just to make sure I've still got the offense down. Other than that, it's not really bad."

And besides, "I like rushing the quarterback," he said. "I like that a lot."

His brother Chad, who played weakside linebacker for the Cornhuskers (2002-04), "always gives me crap about that," Clayton said of his position switch. But only in brotherly jest.

"He was just happy for me because he knows what I thought I could do, and he knew I could get some time on defense this year. So he's just happy I'm over here," said Clayton.

So if you see No. 88 jerseys on both sides of the ball, they're not duplicate numbers. They're one in the same. Sievers is a throwback to a time when the rules required players to go both ways.

"He's physical, a tough guy," Callahan said. "That's what we like about him."

The coaches have always liked the way he blocks as well as how "he goes down and covers after protecting on punts," said Callahan. "You like the way he rushes the passer and the way he takes on the edge. He's just a rough, tough guy that you have to love."

Despite his increased responsibility following the loss of Dillard, Sievers expects to continue to get some snaps on offense. "I don't think it's going to be pulled away because it's not that big of a package, much stuff to remember," he said. "So I think I'll be fine."

TWO-WAY HEYDAY

The NCAA changed substitution rules in the early 1960s, allowing for two-platoon football. Nebraska used players both ways through the Minnesota game in 1964, then began adjusting, with players focusing on offense or defense. Hall of Fame coach Bob Devaney called Bob Brown (1961-63) the best two-way player he ever coached. Brown played guard on offense and linebacker on defense.

Cornhusker All-America defensive tackle Mike Fultz lined up at fullback late in the Hawaii game in 1976, a dozen years after the changes. Fultz, ever the gentleman, immediately regretted the move, which coach Tom Osborne hadn't sanctioned and wasn't aware of. Osborne considered it disrespectful.

Nebraska won the game in Honolulu, by the way, 68-3. ■

Quick Hits

BEAT THE CLOCK

Some coaches have been quick to criticize new rules regarding the game clock. Not so Bill Callahan. "It's one of the things you have to deal with," he said. "We've acclimated pretty well. They've made a rule change and we've adhered and we've adapted." The clock begins immediately on changes of possession, when the ball is spotted rather than when it is snapped as in the past, and on kickoffs, the clock begins running when the ball is kicked rather than when it is touched by the receiving team.

The change in timing can affect a team's attempt at a late comeback by shortening the game. Callahan said he understands such criticism, "what the coaches are talking about in terms of wanting more clock time and not having plays taken away from them, and I think that's important."

In addition, "you're trying to play as many players as you can, and things of that nature," said Callahan. "I have no idea who was advised or who was on the committees or if any of the coaches were on the committees. But I think that's something that just got adopted."

"And I think everybody in college football is adapting the best they can to it."

Oklahoma's opening game against Alabama-Birmingham provided dramatic anecdotal evidence of the potential effect of the new rules. The two teams combined for just 110 offensive plays, the fewest for an Oklahoma game since 1960, when the Sooners and Colorado combined for 112 plays.

FIELDHOUSE CLOCK

A replica of the clock located on the face of Schulte Fieldhouse is included in the concourse of the new structure at Memorial Stadium's north end. Older Cornhusker fans remember the familiar, and difficult to read, clock above the double doors of the Fieldhouse.

The clock presentation includes a plaque inscribed with a tribute to Hall of Fame coach Bob Devaney. The plaque says, in part: "It is appropriate this clock remain in the concourse of Memorial Stadium to honor the commitment of Bob, Phyllis, Mike and Pat Devaney. They will always be the heart of all Nebraska athletics." Athletic Director Steve Pederson wrote the words on the plaque.

HAIR TODAY, AND TOMORROW

No doubt, you've noticed strongside linebacker Stewart Bradley's lengthy locks by now. Prior to the start of training camp, the senior from Salt Lake City said he intended to let his hair grow throughout the season. "Not everyone has hair like this," he said by way of explanation.

The additional hair was hot and uncomfortable during summer workouts. But it was a hit with the ladies, he said. "You're running and cutting and it's in your eyes and you're like, 'Why am I doing this?' But then you go out Friday night and you're like, 'Oh yeah.' Then you're glad you have it."

It also can have more practical value. For instance, "we had kind of a big team brawl and I got planted. I have like the imprint of the carpet; that's what the carpet on the floor looks like," he said, pointing to his forehead. "If I didn't have my hair there . . . it has its advantages."

Bradley hasn't needed a larger helmet because the helmets have inflatable interior linings and the equipment managers can simply "take some air out," he said.

The hair could be "really gross" by season's end. But if he cuts it, "you can call me on it."

TIMKO'S HAT TRICK

Senior soccer player Brittany Timko scored the fourth "hat trick" of her career in a 3-2 victory against North Texas in the



Brittany Timko

Huskers' four match of the year (Photos on Page 34). Timko was one short of tying the school career-record for hat tricks, set by Kim Engesser from 1997 to 1998. With the three goals, Timko increased her career scoring total to 103 points, one shy of Kari Uppinghouse for fifth place on the Huskers' all-time list.

The Nebraska-North Texas match was the second in the two-day Nebraska adidas Invitational at the Nebraska Soccer Field. The Huskers defeated Drake 4-1 on the second day.

The Drake victory was Nebraska's third in a row after two ties to open the season. Coach John Walker used 22 of 23 available players in the victory, among them freshmen Brittany Lanier and Julie Berkshire, each of whom scored the first goals of their Husker careers.

MAJOR LEAGUE CALL-UP

The Milwaukee Brewers recently called up former Cornhusker Drew Anderson, who played most of the season in the outfield with the Brewers' Double-A affiliate in Huntsville, Ala.

Anderson, the Brewers' 24th pick in the 2003 draft, batted .289 with six home runs, 43 runs-batted-in and 18 stolen bases in 108 games with Huntsville, before being promoted to Triple-A Nashville. He played in 16 games at Nashville, getting two or more hits in eight of them and batting .333 with a home run, nine RBIs and three stolen bases. He batted .300 or better in his first three professional seasons.

In three seasons at Nebraska 2001-03, Anderson hit .259 with five home runs and 61 RBIs. He is the four member of the Cornhuskers' 2001 College World Series team to reach the major leagues. The others have been Dan Johnson (Oakland), Adam Stern (Boston) and Shane Komine (Oakland).

Anderson is the 24th Cornhusker to reach the major leagues and the first from the state — he is from Kearney, Neb. — since pitcher Kip Gross in 1990.

DOC FILLS OUT STAFF

New men's basketball coach Doc Sadler filled out his staff by hiring David Anwar as an assistant. Anwar was Sadler's director of operations at UTEP the past two seasons. Prior to that, he was an assistant coach at Arkansas-Fort Smith for four seasons, the last three under Sadler.

Anwar, a Philadelphia native, earned a bachelor's degree in special education and sociology from Fitchburg State in 1998 and a master's degree in sports management and sports leadership from Virginia Commonwealth in 2004. Sadler's other assistants are Tony Benford and Philip Mathews.



David Anwar

BRIEFLY

• Sophomore wide receiver Nate Swift is among 51 players who have been included on the watch list for the 2006 Biletnikoff Award, presented by the Tallahassee Quarterback Club.

• Volleyball All-American Sarah Pavan was named the Big 12 player of the week for Sept. 4-10, after leading coach John Cook's Huskers to three consecutive victories to win the Ameritas Players Challenge. It was the fourth time Pavan has been so honored by the conference office.

• The Husker women's golf team finished in a third-place tie at the Badger Invitational at Verona, Wis., after a seven-over-par 295 in the final round. The round was the best by a team in the four-day tournament, by seven shots and enabled the Huskers to move up from ninth place.

Junior Elli Brown led Nebraska with a 54-hole total 228, 12 over par and three shots off the leader. Freshmen JC Stevenson and Kate White finished second and third among the Huskers, at 234 and 236. Stevenson had the top individual round of the tournament, even-par 72 on the final day. ■

Benefits Mutual

Junior college transfer Dagunduro 'knew this was where' he needed to be



**Mike
BABCOCK**

SNOW GREETED Ola Dagunduro when he arrived at Nebraska in January of 2005.

Snow in January isn't unique for a Nebraskan. But it was for Dagunduro, who was born and raised in Inglewood, Calif. In fact, the Cornhuskers' senior nose tackle had never even seen snow.

Also, he had never been to Nebraska before beginning spring-semester classes.

"I was like, 'Wow, I didn't know it would be like this,'" he said.

Dagunduro didn't make a recruiting visit to Nebraska. He could have, of course, but "I didn't need to take a trip," he said. "I knew this was where I needed to be."

He was impressed from the beginning, when Cornhusker defensive line coach John Blake called him at Compton (Calif.) Community College. Right away "he had my attention," said Dagunduro.

Carl Nicks' reaction was similar when Nebraska offensive line coach Dennis Wagner called. Wagner's timing couldn't have been better, according to Nicks, a junior offensive tackle.

He made the call as soon as NCAA rules allowed. The Cornhuskers "came in the picture real early," Nicks said. "That's one of the things that separated them from everybody else."

Nicks, who was attending Hartnell Community College in Salinas, Calif., at the time, also liked what Wagner had to say. "He was always saying, 'You're my franchise. You're the guy I want.' He just set himself apart from everybody else," said Nicks. "He asked about my family."

Dagunduro and Nicks were among nine junior college transfers on the depth chart the week of Nebraska's game at Southern California. The others were wide receivers Frantz Hardy and Maurice Purify, I-back Kenny Wilson, defensive tackle Barry Cryer, weakside linebacker Steve Octavien and cornerbacks Andre Jones and Tyrell Spain. Cryer and Jones, like Dagunduro were listed as starters.

The roster also includes a handful of junior college transfers not on the two-deeps. The Cornhuskers have more junior college transfers than ever before. And the benefits are mutual.

"You think about D-I (NCAA Division I-A), and this is what you think about," Nicks said.

Like Dagunduro, he was surprised when he arrived, but not by snow; he came in the summer. "I didn't think it was going to be this intense," he said near the end of training camp. "This is what I thought the NFL would be like, the media, the intensity of practice, the lifting and conditioning."

Nicks had some background on Nebraska after spending his first collegiate season at New Mexico State, playing for coach Tony Samuel — since departed. Samuel is a former Cornhusker player and coach and counted former Cornhusker All-America middle guard Rich Glover among his assistants.

Nicks began as a defensive tackle at New Mexico State, and Glover, a defensive coach, "would talk about Nebraska every day," said Nicks, exaggerating only slightly.

Samuel and some of the other assistants with ties to the Cornhuskers, or at least to the state, also talked about "the tradition and the legacy at Nebraska," Nicks said. "It got me a little curious. I knew eventually I didn't want to be there. I wanted to go somewhere else."

That somewhere else was Nebraska. And Nicks hasn't been disappointed.

It's "everything you dream about," he said.

As with many of his teammates, he also dreams of playing in the NFL when he finishes his Cornhusker career. So does Dagunduro, who was attracted to Nebraska, in part, by the NFL backgrounds of Blake and head coach Bill Callahan. In fact, his interest in football can be traced to the NFL, and the San Francisco 49ers in particular," said Dagunduro. His grandfather "loves football. He loves the 49ers. I'm a 49ers fan, too. Ever since I was young, we used to watch NFL games together."

Among college teams, Dagunduro preferred UCLA to USC. But he had no desire to play for either. He wanted to leave southern California, "just get away," he said. "California is a great place to be, but there are so many distractions to pull you away from football. I feel like in Nebraska I can be able to concentrate on football and academics better here. And my parents were thinking that, too."

His mom was concerned about the distance, but not enough to dissuade him.

Dagunduro had never seen snow, and he had never played in front of crowds as large as those at Memorial Stadium. That was a shock, particularly when compared to the size of the audience for his junior college games. His high school graduating class was considerably larger.

With no more than "a hundred" spectators, "you have to like football a lot," he said.

He did then, and he still does. "I was always focused on the game," Dagunduro said. "I didn't really care who was in the stands. I just wanted to play." ■

Mike Babcock is a former sports columnist for the Lincoln Journal Star. He has covered Nebraska football for more than 25 years. Mike can be reached at MBABCOCK1@neb.rr.com or P.O. Box 6782, Lincoln, NE 68506.

The Next Trojans

Florida State's Bowden learns that this isn't the same old Troy



**Curt
McKEEVER**

FLORIDA STATE coach Bobby Bowden will no longer assume a question about the Men of Troy automatically refers to Southern California.

Five days after opening the 2006 season with a riveting victory at Miami, the ninth-ranked Seminoles found themselves on the wrong end of a 17-10 score to Troy (Ala.) University. Mind you, this wasn't one of those crazy halftime deals, either. We're talking midway through the fourth quarter.

"It was just one of those scenarios, if you win, be happy," Bowden said the day after his club pulled out a 24-17 outcome. "I'm happy. I could be sitting here with the worst loss of my life."

OK, Nebraska fans. Have the next Trojans on the schedule got your attention yet?

No? Well, trust me, these won't look anything like the Larry Blakeney-coached squads the Huskers beat in 2001 (42-14), 2002 (31-16) and 2003 (30-0). Particularly on offense.

Get this. After last season, when Troy finished 4-7, Blakeney hired Tony Franklin. No, not the former Texas A&M kicker — this is the guy who along with Mike Leach helped develop the highly successful spread system for Hal Mumme at Kentucky.

In 2005, Troy finished 102nd in passing out of the 117 teams in NCAA Division I-A. But Franklin's reputation for running a wide-open scheme — which features no-huddle, the center calling snap cadence and some no-back sets — was intriguing enough for Omar Haugabook to listen.

Haugabook operated a five-wide receiver, no-huddle offense in high school at Belle Glade, Fla. As a senior in 2003, he threw 30 touchdown passes, which ranks sixth all-time for a single season in Florida.

Haugabook then went to Dodge City (Kan.) Community College and in two seasons passed for 5,052 yards and 44 touchdowns.

When Franklin came courting Haugabook, he asked whether he'd be interesting in throwing for 4,000 yards in a season. That was about 1,000 more than Troy's top quarterbacks had produced in the previous three seasons combined.

"When I came on my (recruiting) visit," Haugabook told the Birmingham (Ala.) News, "I really saw he was telling the truth about throwing for 4,000 yards."

Haugabook didn't start off his career at 4,000-yard pace. But in Troy's season-opening, 38-0 win against Alabama State, he had four TD passes.



Larry Blakeney is in his 16th year as head coach at Troy.

One week later, Haugabook, wearing the No. 17 that honors his childhood hero, Florida State Heisman Trophy winner Charlie Ward, completed 29 passes for 219 yards and a score against the Seminoles.

But they also intercepted him twice in the final quarter to stave off the upset.

"Coming in here, we were not interested in any moral victories," Haugabook said afterward. "The only positive is that we can go back home, watch this film, and get better. Every game, no matter who we are playing, we go in planning to win."

That attitude persists even though the Trojans play a schedule that pits them playing on the road against FSU, Georgia Tech and Nebraska — schools with multiple national championships between them — on consecutive weeks.

"They impressed me more with their hitting than their athletic ability," Bowden said. "They didn't miss tackles, and they'd knock the heck out of you. When they tackled us downfield, they hit our kids, boy."

"They were a team with 28 Florida boys on it, so they wanted to show, you should have signed them (rather) than some other guys."

Although the Seminoles opened the second half by driving 74 yards to erase a 3-0 deficit, Troy answered with an 80-yard TD march that let the Seminoles know it had no intention of buckling.

"I am mighty proud of our people," Blakeney said. "Our coaching staff, our players, and our folks came down here and acted like they were supposed to come in here and win."

Troy left having sustained its ninth loss in the 10 games it's played against top 25 teams since moving to Division I-A in 2001 (the lone win came against Missouri in 2004).

But Bowden will attest that these Trojans are nothing like the previous three teams from Troy he faced early in his career when he was coaching at Howard (now Samford). One of those results, in 1961, had Bowden's team winning 80-0.

Forty-five years later, Bowden was shaking his head for a different reason after a battle with Troy.

"It was a heck of a game," he said. "Troy deserved to win that game. We deserved to win, too, but Troy deserved to win."

" . . . I was glad to see it end. Take my ball and go home." ■

Curt McKeever is a sportswriter for the Lincoln Journal Star. In addition to reporting on football, he is the primary beat writer for the men's basketball and baseball teams. He can be reached at cmckeever@journalstar.com

Osborne Saw Po

***Offensive assistant
didn't think quarterback
recruit was too slow***

By Mike Babcock

Jerry Tagge was the most publicized player in Nebraska's 1968 recruiting class. Or so Doug Dumler has claimed. Recruiting analysts didn't provide rankings back then, so there were no five-star phenoms, no consensus blue-chippers, no USA Today prep All-Americans.

There were, however, more scholarships to award, limited only by economics and conferences rather than by the NCAA. So Tagge was among several aspiring quarterbacks in the class.

Others included Van Brownson, Chuck Osberg and Jeff Kinney.

Tagge, never one to promote himself, has disputed Dumler's assessment. Freshmen regularly played positions other than those for which they were recruited. Kinney, for example, was moved to halfback as a freshman. And, Tagge claims, he was moved around his first year, too.

Does the most publicized recruit, a quarterback, get looked at as a tight end? How about a linebacker or a center? As a freshman, the coaches "moved me all over," Tagge

Third in a Series

has said. "The only position I could play was quarterback, but they still didn't want me to play quarterback. I was slow. Every time we watched film, if they put it slow motion, it was really weird because I was already slow.

"Nobody thought I could play except Tom."

Tagge was referring to Tom Osborne, the "offensive ends" coach in 1968.

In 1969, however, after coach Bob Devaney gave him the responsibility of redesigning the offense, Osborne began meeting regularly with the quarterbacks as well. And Tagge, slow afoot or not, would emerge to direct the Cornhuskers to back-to-back national championships.

The story of Tagge's recruitment out of West High School in Green Bay, Wis., is a familiar one. He and Dave Mason, another member of the 1968 class, were teammates at West High, along with Dennis Gutzman and Jim Anderson, who preceded them at Nebraska in 1967.

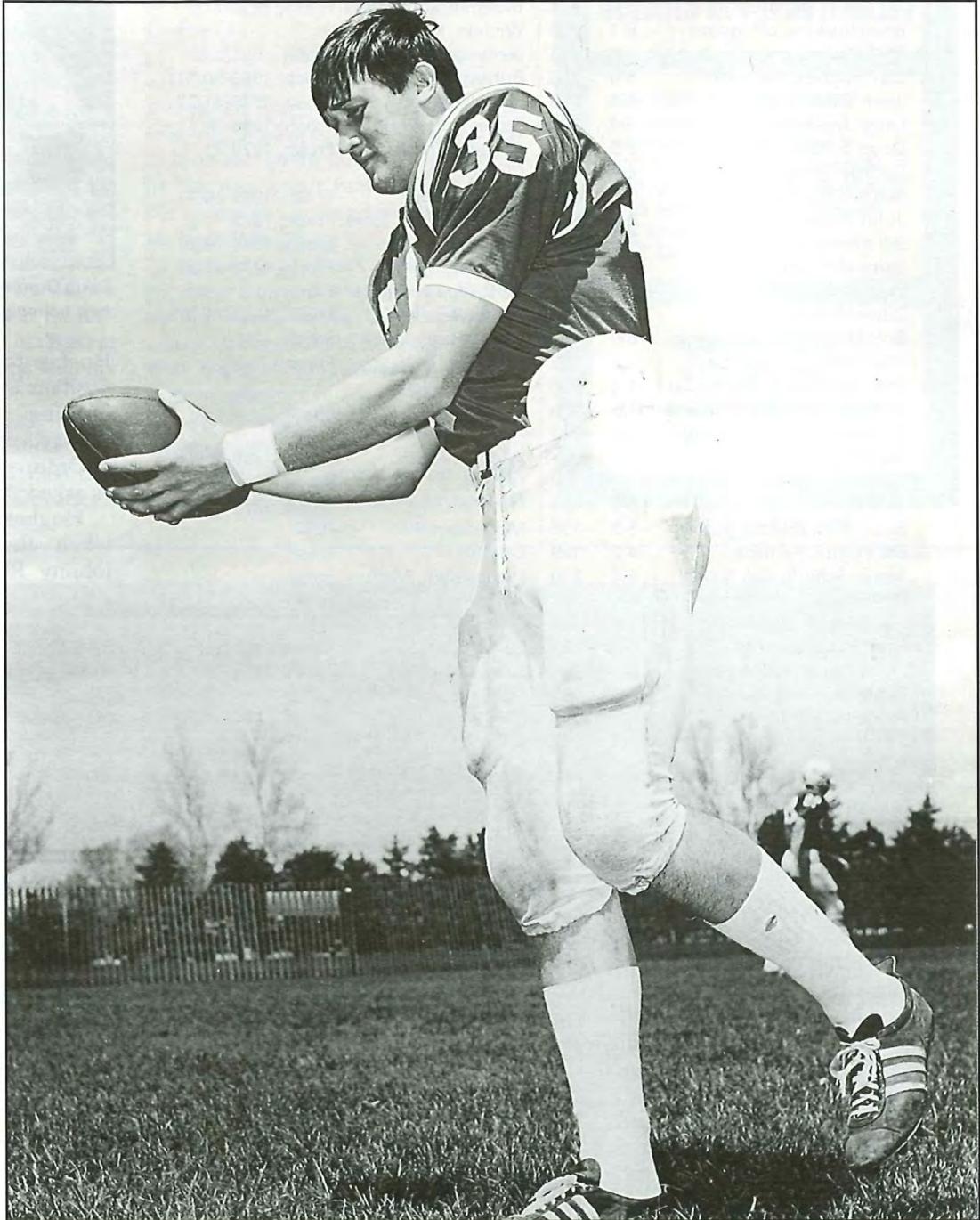
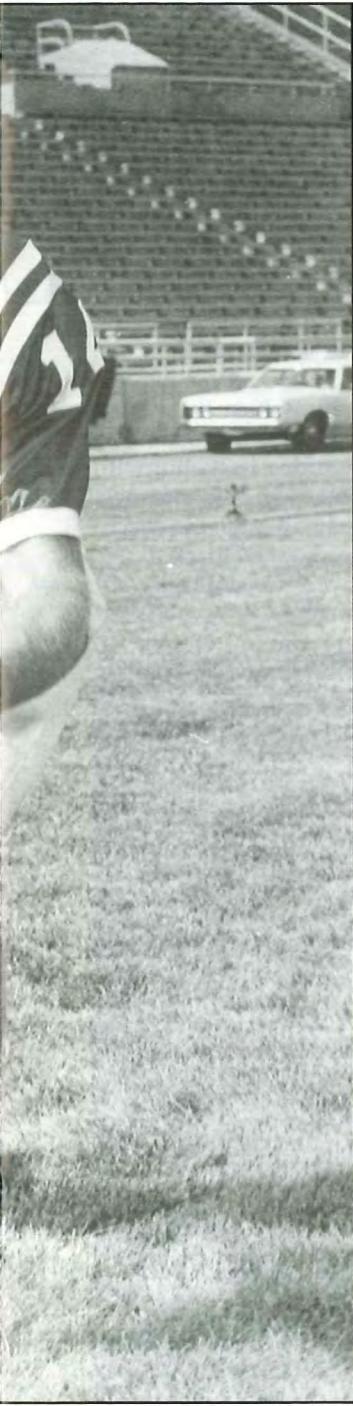
That Devaney saw fit to offer scholarships to the others



influenced Tagge's decision to cast his lot with the Cornhuskers, though that wasn't the only reason. His dad was a factor, too.

Tagge's grandparents farmed near Shelton, Neb., and

Potential in Tagge



Quarterback Jerry Tagge (left) and I-back Jeff Kinney (above) both earned All-America honors in 1971.

his dad was a graduate of Wood River, Neb., High School. Tagge was born in Omaha, where he lived until his dad was transferred to Green Bay from the Strategic Air Command Air Force Base in Bellevue, Neb., when he was

4-years old.

His dad remained a Nebraska football fan, however, and accompanied Tagge on a recruiting trip to Lincoln. And when he met with Devaney in the coach's office, his

Recruiting list, 1968 (lettermen or on the fall 1969 roster)

Player, Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	Letters
John Adkins, def. end	6-3	192	Lynchburg, Va.	Frosh, 1970-71
Jim Branch, linebacker	5-9	187	Chicago	Frosh, 1970-71-72
Van Brownson, quarterback	6-2	176	Shenandoah, Iowa	Frosh, 1969-70-71
Jim Carstens, fullback	5-11	214	Glen Ellyn, Ill.	Frosh, 1970-71
Harold Davis, off. guard	6-3	201	Gothenburg, Neb.	Frosh
Doug Dumler, off. tackle	6-3	216	Melrose Park, Ill.	Frosh, 1970-71-72
Lanny Graves, fullback	5-11	203	Omaha	Frosh, 1969
Phil Harvey, end	6-0	193	Kansas City, Kan.	Frosh, 1970-71
Bruce Haage, linebacker	6-0	204	Bloomington, Minn.	Frosh, 1970-71
Ron Hinckley, off. guard	6-1	195	Wichita, Kan.	
Bill Holmes, end	6-0	211	Birmingham, Mich.	Frosh
Jeff Hughes, halfback	6-0	198	Burlington, Vt.	Frosh, 1969-70-71
John Hyland, def. end	6-1	185	Lincoln, Neb.	Frosh, 1970-71-72
Larry Jacobson, def. tackle	6-6	240	Sioux Falls, S.D.	Frosh, 1969-70-71
Doug Jamail, center	5-9	189	Bellaire, Texas	Frosh, 1970-71
George Jones, safety	6-0	180	Clairton, Pa.	
Jeff Kinney, halfback	6-1	196	McCook, Neb.	Frosh, 1969-70-71
John Kinsel, center	6-2	200	Council Bluffs, Iowa	Frosh, 1972
Bill Kosch, cornerback	6-0	170	Columbus, Neb.	Frosh, 1969-70-71
Jerry List, end	6-0	193	Bay City, Mich.	Frosh, 1970-71-72
Wes Mabin, defensive back	6-0	181	W. Bridgewater, Pa.	Frosh
Dave Mason, end	6-0	185	Green Bay, Wis.	Frosh, 1969-71-72
Bob McFarland, def. back	6-0	166	North Platte, Neb.	Frosh
Mike McGuire, def. back	6-2	182	Bellevue, Neb.	Frosh
Tom McGowan, linebacker	6-2	200	Superior, Neb.	
Charles Menser, off. guard	5-10	230	Omaha	Frosh
Ed Minzak, off. guard	5-10	211	Aliquippa, Pa.	Frosh
Pat Morell, linebacker	6-2	197	Wichita, Kan.	Frosh, 1969-70-71
Chuck Osberg, quarterback	6-0	180	Omaha	Frosh
Johnny Pitts, def. end	6-0	194	Flint, Mich.	Frosh, 1970-71-72
Bob Pabis, middle guard	5-9	196	Monessen, Pa.	1970
Bill Pogge, fullback	6-2	199	Omaha	Frosh
Merle Schloff, def. tackle	6-4	230	Mahtomedi, Mich.	Frosh
Bob Snyder, off. tackle	6-4	225	Concordia, Kan.	Frosh
Joe Sloboda, def. tackle	6-0	229	Schuyler, Neb.	Frosh
Greg Stejskal, off. tackle	6-4	223	Omaha	Frosh
Jerry Tagge, quarterback	6-1	220	Green Bay, Wis.	Frosh, 1969-70-71
John Tegels, linebacker	6-0	195	Omaha	
Frank Witliff, halfback	5-11	196	Port Huron, Mich.	Frosh
Steve Yanda, linebacker	5-10	214	Edina, Minn.	Frosh

Note: positions on freshman team

dad got to sit in Devaney's chair and wear one of Devaney's red hats — which he took with him back to Green Bay. Tagge had narrowed his choices to Nebraska and Michigan State. And the visit tipped the scales.

Brownson, who came from Shenandoah, Iowa, was the starting quarterback for the 4-0 freshman team coached by Clete Fischer, completing 40-of-70 passes for 671 yards and seven touchdowns, with only one interception. Tagge, who was hampered by injuries, threw only 22 passes.

Osberg saw even less action and would transfer to the University of Nebraska-Omaha, while. Kinney settled in as an I-back, after expecting to play slotback in 1969.

Kinney had scored six touchdowns on the freshman team, two receiving

and four rushing. He was suited for the slotback (later wingback) position, having demonstrated his ability as a pass receiver. When a knee injury sidelined I-back Joe Orduna, however, Kinney moved again. His aptitude for I-back was reflected in his earning Big Eight Conference sophomore-of-the-year honors.

Kinney had led the freshman team in receptions with 16. But Mason led it in receiving yards, with 281 and four touchdowns on only eight catches. He also switched positions and would be the starting monster back (strong safety) on the back-to-back national championship teams.

Interestingly enough, the leading rushers on the 1968 freshman team were Jim Carstens and Jeff Hughes. Carstens lettered as a back-up fullback on the championship teams, while



Doug Dumler was the starting center on two national championship teams.

Hughes found himself in the wrong position at the wrong time. He was recruited as a running back, but with Kinney's emergence and the prospect of Orduna's return in 1970, the coaches asked, "How about slotback?"

Hughes moved to slotback, but when the Cornhuskers recruited Johnny Rodgers out of Omaha in 1969, he heard from the coaches again. "Have you ever punted?" they wanted to know.

Hughes was the punter and a back-up slotback on the 1970 and 1971 teams.

Dumler came to Nebraska from Melrose Park, Ill., expecting to play end. But he was moved to tackle as a freshman and then, because of injuries, to center, where he started on the championship teams. His aspirations to be a pass receiver quickly faded when, during a workout with other freshmen, a Tagge pass hit him in the facemask instead of the hands — and lodged there.

Dumler, whose father was a college professor, was planning to attend a small college in Illinois or Wisconsin. He also considered Dartmouth and Army, but larger schools ignored him.

He had written a letter to Alabama, inquiring about a scholarship after watching coach Bear Bryant's Crimson Tide defeat Nebraska in the 1966 Orange Bowl and the 1967 Sugar Bowl. Bryant responded, but not the way he had hoped. He could walk on, Bryant said. Thanks but no thanks.

The snub wasn't surprising, considering Dumler had played only half of his senior season at Walther Lutheran High School in suburban Chicago. And he would have gone to a small school if not for the intercession of one of his father's colleagues who had moved to Nebraska.

The colleague approached the Cornhusker coaches at a booster club luncheon and suggested they consider recruiting Dumler. They told him to have Dumler send some film. With only half a senior season, there weren't a lot of highlights to send. But Dumler's dad apparently did a good job of editing.

Dumler was only 17-years old when he enrolled as a freshman. He played on the scout team ("meat squad") his second season, a year "in purgatory" as he once described it.

Though he was slowed by a knee injury, that wasn't the reason he red-shirted. He was young and realized at that point he wasn't ready to play major college football.

The 1968 recruiting class helped turn the program back around after the 6-4 records in 1967 and 1968 that led to a petition calling for Devaney's

ouster being circulated by disgruntled boosters. It produced an Outland Trophy winner, Nebraska's first, in Larry Jacobson and two other All-Americans in Kinney and Tagge. Nine of the starters in the 1971 "Game of the Century" were from the class.

The championship teams were "cohesive" Dumler has said, offering as evidence a boxing match involving Carstens and Bob Jones, a quarterback in the 1969 recruiting class from Oak Lawn, Ill.

"The two were always getting on each other," according to Dumler, so the match was staged in a makeshift ring on the lower level of the north fieldhouse. Doug Jamail, who served as ring announcer, rented a tuxedo for the occasion. Dumler described Jamail as "the class cut-up."

Dumler served as Carstens' trainer — they were roommates as sophomores — and "by the third round, the rounds were down to 30 seconds, with five minutes in between," Dumler once recalled.

"You could do something like that with a cohesive team."

Despite little publicity, the match drew a crowd of about 200, he said. ■

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10-14 Kansas St.
10-28 Oklahoma St.
11-11 Texas A&M

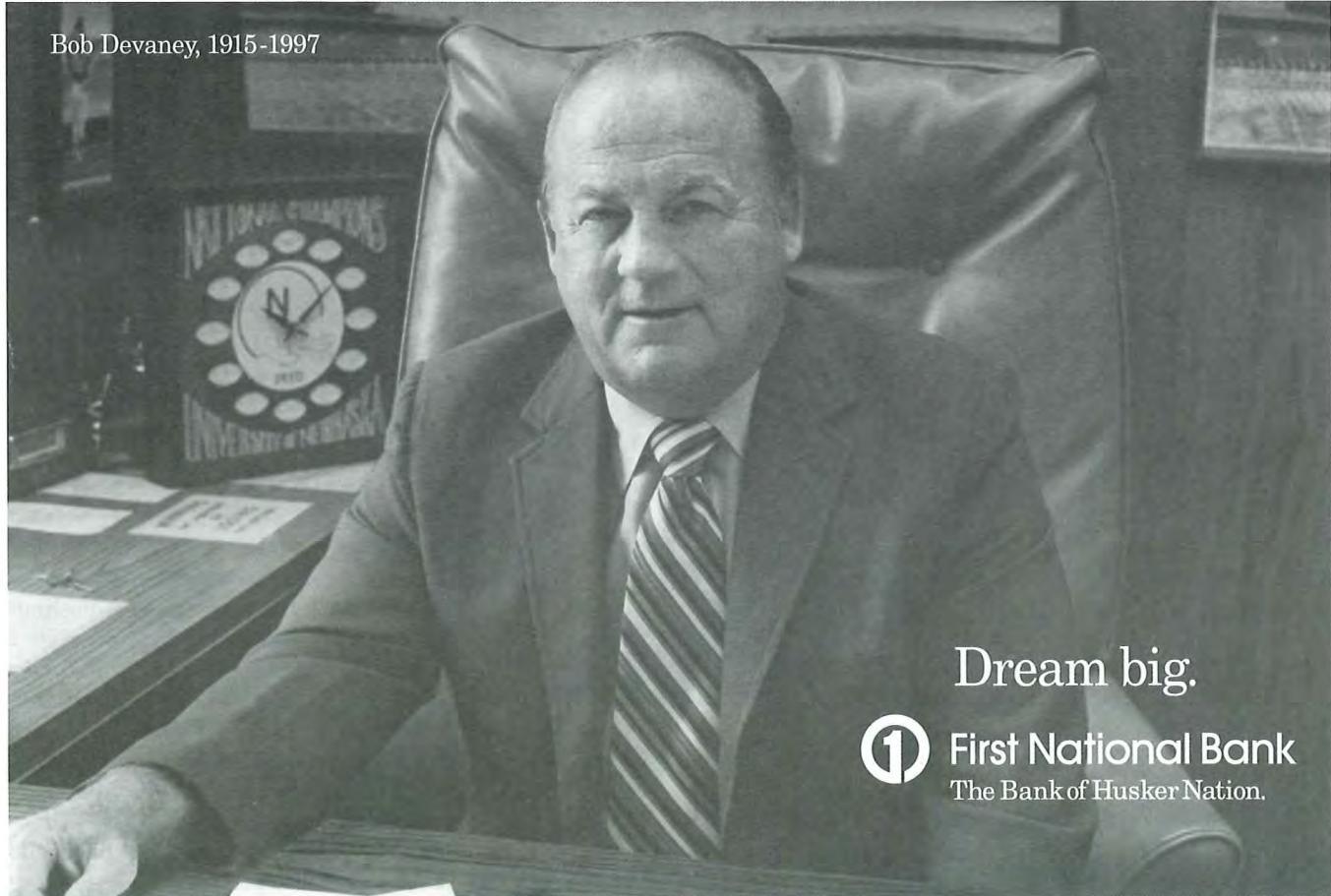
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Heavy Hitter

***Versatile linebacker
Brandenburgh
enjoys delivering
the big hits***

By Terry Douglass

For Lance Brandenburgh, delivering a crushing highlight-reel-quality hit has to rank among the greatest feelings in the world.

Imagine then how the Nebraska linebacker felt after the Cornhuskers' third defensive snap in the 2005 Alamo Bowl when he absolutely leveled a Michigan receiver.

"It's the best feeling ever," Brandenburgh said. "It was awesome, especially since it was our third defensive play of the game. I was all psyched up, it was my first start . . . and then you get a receiver coming across the middle, and you get to just lay into them."

But doesn't delivering huge blows like that hurt the defensive player, too?

"I don't feel it at all," Brandenburgh said. "I didn't feel anything after the play. I felt like I was flying."

Later in the game, Brandenburgh had another impressive stick to again fire up the Nebraska defense. A replacement as the starting weakside linebacker for the injured Bo Ruud, Brandenburgh finished with a career-best six tackles as the Huskers rallied past the Wolverines 32-28.

It was a performance that cemented Brandenburgh's confidence in himself and his abilities. He said he always believed he could play — and play well — if he ever got

#40 LANCE BRANDENBURGH
JUNIOR LINEBACKER

the chance to start. The Alamo Bowl presented him with an opportunity to prove it.

"It definitely gave me a lot more confidence," Brandenburgh said. "I was injured from spring ball last year to the middle of the season last year, so I was out for quite a long time and didn't really get a chance to prove myself. That game kind of gave me a chance to prove myself and show there was a lot more I could do."

"That game was a lot of fun."

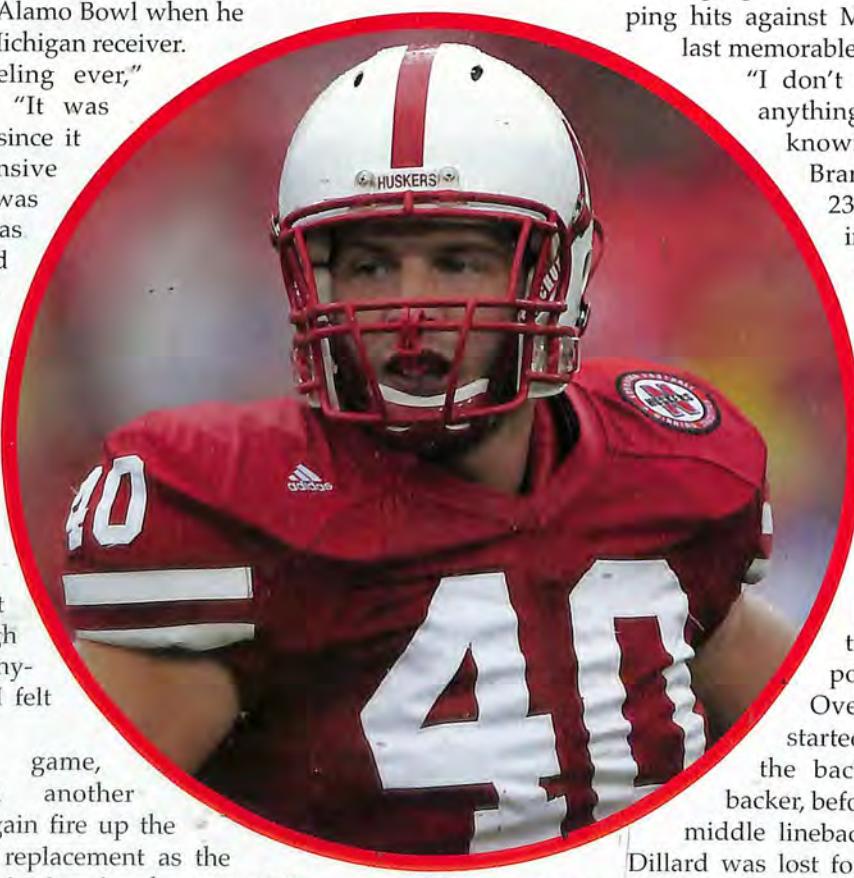
If Brandenburgh gets his way, the two pad-popping hits against Michigan won't be his last memorable tackles.

"I don't want to be cocky or anything, but I'd like to be known for that," said Brandenburgh, who had 23 tackles last year, including five for losses, despite missing the first four games due to a leg injury. "I look for the big hits. I think I'm a pretty solid tackler, so I think you could say it's a trademark."

Another trait Brandenburgh is well known for at Nebraska is his versatility. The 6-foot-1, 230-pound junior from Overland Park, Kan., started the 2006 season as the backup strongside linebacker, before moving to the No. 2 middle linebacker spot after Phillip Dillard was lost for the season due to a knee injury in the Louisiana Tech game.

That kind of versatility tends to make Brandenburgh very popular with his coaches.

"I can't say enough about Lance," defensive coordinator Kevin Cosgrove said. "One week he's a SAM, and the next week he's a MIKE — he's the most unselfish guy I've



Scott Bratin

ever been around. He'll do whatever he can to help this football team.

"Lance is very valuable in that he can play all three positions, and you don't miss a beat."

That's something Brandenburgh's teammates can also appreciate.

"Lance is such a good guy, and he comes to practice every day ready to work," senior defensive end Jay Moore said. "He knows that if someone goes down, he's probably right there — he's kind of a utility guy in a way because he can play anywhere in that linebacking corps.

"He's smart and aggressive, and that's what you've got to be to be a good linebacker."

It's very conceivable that Brandenburgh is the best player without a starting spot on the team. With a stable of linebackers that already includes Corey McKeon, Stewart Bradley, Steve Octavien, Ruud and Brandenburgh, Cosgrove said it's difficult getting everyone enough reps.

"I have the utmost confidence in Lance," Cosgrove said. "I know he believes he's good enough to be in there every down, and he is. He's a very good player. We're going to get him his snaps."

Brandenburgh said he fully understands the situation.

"We're definitely loaded at linebacker," Brandenburgh said. "You've got to come to every practice ready to play. Every snap, you've got to go all out because you know there's someone else just as good as you who wants to start, too, so there's definitely a lot of competition there."

Bradley said he and his teammates certainly admire Brandenburgh's attitude.

"It has got to be tough for Lance because we have a lot of good guys playing linebacker, but he's a great player, and when he gets on the field, he shows it," Bradley said. "I love to see him out there making plays, and Lance has done a good job."

Last season serves as a reminder that sometimes you can never have enough depth at a position. By the time the Alamo Bowl rolled around, Octavien, Bradley and Ruud were also out with season-ending injuries.

"Football is a really physical sport, so you know that at any point, anyone can go down,"

Brandenburgh said. "As they say, you're only one play away from being a starter, and that really is true."

After getting a taste of starting, Brandenburgh admits that it's difficult not playing every down. But unlike some players who opt to leave the program in an attempt to find playing time, Brandenburgh prefers to stay and compete.

"It's kind of frustrating at times when you work your butt off and you're not starting, but at the same time, you've got other guys that are in front of you that are good, too, and they've got the same attitude you've got," Brandenburgh said.

"Sometimes, you might think about transferring, but this is the place I want to be."

Playing for the Huskers has always been the place Brandenburgh wanted to be. He was actually born in York, but his family moved to the Kansas City area when he was 5 years old, and he still has many relatives in Nebraska.

"My dad (Chuck Brandenburgh) is a huge Nebraska fan, so it has been my dream my whole life," Brandenburgh said. "Coming here is kind of like a dream." ■

Terry Douglass is the sports editor of the *Grand Island (Neb.) Independent*. He can be reached at terry.douglass@charter.net.



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10 QUESTIONS



with
MATT SENSKE
6-3/235 Jr. Fullback
Bellevue, Neb.

There might have been 50, maybe 100. Matt Senske doesn't remember for sure. What he does remember is that there were a lot of athletes, and would-be athletes, at a tryout for football walk-ons in the fall of 2004. New coach Bill Callahan offered an opportunity, and Senske took it. When he saw all the candidates, "I was like, 'Oh man, I'm really hoping for the best here,'" he said.

The tryout consisted of speed and agility drills, 10- and 40-yard dashes, the pro agility run and vertical jump, "stuff like that," said Senske, who was in his second year at Nebraska.

He had walked on to compete in track and field, the discus, and had redshirted as a freshman after Cornhusker assistant Mark Colligan suggested he learn to throw the javelin, too.

Football was his first love, however, so Senske tried out. He didn't learn he would be allowed to walk on for about a week. "I was waiting for a call. 'Let the phone ring,'" he said. Finally it did.

He and Adam Furtwengler were the only ones at the tryout to get the call.

Senske and Furtwengler, who has since left the team, both began as linebackers. Senske played on the scout team in the fall and continued to compete in track and field during the winter and spring. He missed football practices on the weekends that first spring because of track and field.

During spring football, defensive coordinator Kevin Cosgrove asked him if he would be willing to switch to offense to enhance his chances of playing. Whatever it takes, Senske said.

He missed the final weekend before the Spring Game because of a track meet. And when he returned to football practice the next week, he was asked to trade his defensive playbook for a thicker offensive playbook. He had been moved to fullback. And he had a couple of days to adjust.

At first, the playbook "was gibberish to me," he said.

He still plans to double up with track and field. "'I'm a guy who likes to prove people wrong,'" Senske said. "When someone tells me I can't do it, I show them I can. Everyone says, 'Oh, you're going to quit one of the sports.' If I have to because of time constraints, I'd quit track."

"But I'm going to do everything not to let that happen."

When you cook for yourself, what's your specialty?

"I like to cook. I'm not saying I can cook a variety or a lot of

stuff. I like to cook spaghetti. I'll cut up some chicken, put that in there with some Alfredo sauce."

Who's the funniest guy on the offense?

"Frantz Hardy's a character. He's definitely the loud guy on the team. He's always being flamboyant, out there. There are others, but he's just a guy who's always going."

If you were on 'Star Search,' what would your talent be?

"I'm a man of many talents but I don't play any instruments. I don't do any of that. I don't think I'd be one of those people on that show, to nail me down to one talent other than playing sports."

If you had a CD player and only three CDs to play, what would they be?

"I'll mix it up. I like all types of music. For country, I'd probably take Rascal Flatts or Blake Shelton; a nice little mellow kind of R&B, John Legend; and, rap, I'd probably take a Tupac CD. He's got it all."

If your life were made into a movie, who would you pick to play your character?

"I'm loving Johnny Depp in 'Pirates,' a funny guy. I'm a character all the time, joking around, having fun. I think it would be him. He could be the funny guy and then get serious in other movies."

If you could eat only one thing for the next month, what would it be?

"Can I have a topping on something? Definitely honey. People always make fun of me because I can put honey on anything. Seriously, honey can go on anything. No joke, I'll eat honey straight. I'll put it on French toast, pancakes, just douse them. I've put it on pizza; you name it. Spaghetti, I would have no problem with honey."

What do you think you'll be doing 10 years from now?

"Hopefully, I'm going to be doing something in the business world. That's what I'm getting my degree in. I'd like to be in a bigger city doing business, and hopefully, one day be a CEO. I think of myself as an innovator, finding a better way to do things."

If you could spend 30 minutes with any celebrity, sports or otherwise, who would it be and what would you talk about?

"Oh man, I would say Michael Jordan because I think overall he is the most influential athlete. When you think of the best athletes, you think of Tiger Woods, Michael Jordan, Muhammad Ali. It would definitely be Jordan. I would probably ask him what drove him in his career to be the best, to work so hard day in and day out, because every athlete has days when they're tired, when they don't want to practice. What kept him driving every day? Ask him what his goals and thoughts were."

What do you remember about the first Nebraska football game you ever attended?

"I was just doing track my freshman year. I was in the stands. That was my first actual game. I've lived in Nebraska since I was 7, but that's the first game I went to. It was just nuts. Hey, I'm a player, but I was in the stands, being a part of that. That's pretty cool, having fun with all the kids in the dorms. Freshmen on the team, players on the team may not get to experience that, being in the student section for games."

What is your favorite television show?

"That's an easy one, hands down, 'Entourage.' It just got over. I was pretty upset with the season finale because then you've got to wait a whole year, until it comes around in the summer again. That's definitely my favorite show."

USC 28

Nebraska 10



USC wide receiver Steve Smith (2) celebrates with teammates Fred Davis (83) and Chauncey Washington (23) after catching a 3-yard touchdown pass in the second quarter. Middle linebacker Corey McKeon (13) was among Nebraska's defensive leaders with nine tackles. (Photo by Scott Bruhn)

Tall Tales

***Jarrett, USC
as talented
as advertised***

**By Mike Babcock
Photos: Scott Bruhn**

Words didn't determine the outcome. Talent did. But words came back to haunt Andre Jones. Nebraska's junior cornerback learned a hard lesson in the Cornhuskers' 28-10 loss to No. 2- and No. 4-ranked Southern California

"I think he learned not to make bold statements," Nebraska coach Bill Callahan said.

On the Tuesday before the game, Jones raised eyebrows with a bulletin-board comment about the game. "When we beat USC, this is going to slingshot our whole season," he said. "We're ready to go in there and show the world Nebraska's back on top, that the order is restored."

The statement traveled quickly to the West Coast.

"Oh Huskers. Someone should have warned you about Pete Carroll's penchant for clipping opposing players' quotes for motivational purposes," SI.com's Stewart Mandel wrote.

And Mandel's post occurred BEFORE the Jones comment.

Jones "is a good kid," Callahan said after the game. "I think he learned. It was the first time he ever got thrown in front of the media. He was a junior college kid, anxious, excited, emotional about the game. And, you know, he gets boxed into a corner with a question. And just didn't do his best."

"We had a long talk, and I know he'll benefit; he'll profit. We all make mistakes in life."

Jones had the support of teammates. "Andre can say whatever Andre wants to say," said junior middle line-



Nebraska cornerback Cortney Grixby defends USC All-America wide receiver Dwayne Jarrett. Jarrett finished with 11 catches for 136 yards and two touchdowns.

SAY WHAT?

backer Corey McKeon. "If that's going on in his mind, that's fine."

The words reflected Nebraska's confidence heading to Los Angeles, where it hoped to climb back onto the national stage from which it has dropped of late.

That wasn't going to be easy against USC, regardless of what anyone said, in particular because of the match-up problems presented by the Trojan receivers, prominent among them junior All-American Dwayne Jarrett. "They're pretty well balanced," said Callahan. "They're not going to really allow you to sit down and double one receiver. They've got so many weapons. We've got a full agenda to defend."

Jarrett was as advertised, catching 11 passes for 136 yards and two touchdowns. He "was great tonight. You



REPORT CARD

RUSHING OFFENSE

The offensive game plan was to run the ball. But it had little success. After averaging 256.5 yards rushing in their first two games, the Cornhuskers managed only 68 yards on 36 carries, a reflection of the speed and strength of USC's defense. They're working to "get our running game back where it needs to be," Callahan said, noting that despite the problems, "we ran the ball physically."

★★

PASSING OFFENSE

The passing was sub-par also. Taylor completed 8-of-16 without an interception, but for just 115 yards. And he was sacked once. ★★

RUSHING DEFENSE

The Trojans averaged 4.6 yards per carry, a distorted figure considering they managed only 56 yards on 15 carries through the first three quarters, then added 86 yards on 16 carries in the fourth. Shutting down the run was among the positives for Nebraska, according to Callahan. ★★★★

PASSING DEFENSE

Nebraska sacked quarterback John David Booty (25-of-36, 257 yards, three touchdowns) only once and missed at least three interception opportunities, including one thrown by flanker Patrick Turner. Dwayne Jarrett, the Trojans' All-America wide receiver, caught 11 passes for 136 yards and two touchdowns. Jarrett is "a monster; he physically dominates," Callahan said. "He's an outstanding receiver; that's why he's a Heisman Trophy candidate." Jarrett broke the USC career record for touchdown catches, previously held by Mike Williams. ★★

SPECIAL TEAMS

Special-teams play was a bright spot, with coverage and 31-yard punt return by Terrence Nunn, which set up the game's first score — a 38-yard, Jordan Congdon field goal. ★★★★

NUMBERS

The game's only turnover was quarterback Zac Taylor's lost fumble on Nebraska's first play of the third quarter. The Cornhuskers had forced USC to punt on a fourth-and-15.

"That was a huge play," said Taylor. "That was a big turning point." USC's Cary Harris recovered at the NU 31, and the Trojans scored four plays later to take a 21-3 lead.

1

could see him really coming this week in practice," USC coach Pete Carroll said.

Though he caught five passes for 35 yards in the Trojans' opening victory at Arkansas, offensive coordinator Lane Kiffin had been less than complimentary afterward.

"I didn't take it personally. Kiffin and I have a great relationship," said Jarrett. "He wants to motivate me out there. I took his comments as a challenge and just wanted to have a good game."

He did that, and contributed to a good game by junior quarterback John David Booty as well. "You are always trying to get the ball to DJ. He just always makes the plays," Booty said.

"You know if you throw it up to him, he is going to bring it down."

The 6-foot-5, 215-pound Jarrett had a size advantage on the 6-0, 195-pound Jones and a decided size advantage on Nebraska's other starting cornerback, Cortney Grixby — who is 5-9, 170.

Nothing anyone could say was going to change that, or make it more pronounced. ■

NEBRASKA-USC NOTES

NO MANN

Kurt Mann, the Cornhuskers' senior center, did not make the trip to Los Angeles because of what coach Bill Callahan has called a virus. Mann, who didn't play against Nicholls State, was hospitalized on the Tuesday before the USC game and remained there as of Friday.

For the second game in a row, junior Brett Byford got the start. Prior to this season, Byford had played in only one game, the 2004 opener against Western Illinois. Even so, he never really became discouraged, he said. "I just trusted God, and he kept me focused, basically. That's pretty much it. Stay ready, be into the thing, be into what's going on and be prepared, and it worked out."

"Discouragement? Not a whole lot, man. My faith has really kept me where I need to be. Most people would have gone in the tank. It just kept me going, kept me positive and my attitude right."

Being behind a two-year starter is "better than playing behind somebody that's not any good," said Byford, who was recruited out of Hartselle, Ala., as an offensive guard.

Sophomore Andy Christensen, who has been alternating at guard, moved up to No. 2 at center.

TRAVEL ROSTER

Nebraska took 75 players to Los Angeles: Greg Austin, OL; Stewart Bradley, LB; Lance Brandenburgh, LB; Chris Brooks, WR; Titus Brothers, DB; Brett Byford, OL; Adam Carriger, DE; Andy Christensen, OL; Jordan Congdon, PK; Barry Cryer, DL; Major Culbert, DB; Ola Dagunduro, DL; Beau Davis, QB; Ben Eisenhart, DB; Dan Erickson, WR; Joe Ganz; Cody Glenn, IB; Tierre Green, S; Cortney Grixby, CB; Victory Haines, OL; Frantz Hardy, WR; Alex Henery, P; Matt Herian, TE; Jacob Hickman, OL; Brian Hildebrand, QB; Sean Hill, TE; Menelik Holt, WR; Mike Huff, OL; Brandon Jackson, IB; Brandon Johnson, DL; Andre Jones, CB; Andy Kadavy, LB; Lane Kelly, LS; Tyler Kester, P/DB; Marlon Lucky, IB; Kevin Luhrs, DL; Corey McKeon, LB; Jay Moore, DE; Josh Mueller, TE; Lydon Murtha, OL; Carl Nicks, OL; Terrence Nunn, WR; Matt O'Hanlon, DB; T.J. O'Leary, LS; Steve Octavien, LB; Chris Patrick, OL; Todd Peterson, WR; J.B. Phillips, TE; Jordan Picou, OL; Zach Potter, DE; Andy Poulosky, DE; Maurice Purify, WR; Brandon Rigoni, FS; Bo Ruud, LB; Matt Senske, FB; Andrew Shanle, S; Clayton Sievers, LB; Matt Sluson, OL; Tyrell Spain, CB; Ty Steinkuhler, DL; Michael Such, P; Ndamukong Suh, DL; Nate Swift, WR; Zac Taylor, QB; Hunter Teafatiller, TE; Rickey Thenarse, DB; Dan Titchener, P; Dane Todd, FB; Justin Tomerlin, TE; Barry Turner, DE; Jake Wesch, PK; Bryan Wilson, CB; Kenny Wilson, IB; Tyler Wortman, LB; Corey Young, DB.

Big 12 travel rosters aren't limited to 75 for non-conference games.

CALIFORNIA CONNECTION

California is among the states in which Nebraska has emphasized recruiting. "The kids we get out there are looking for a different option," Callahan said. "They're looking for something more unique in the sense of getting away from California, getting away from LA and just trying to get out of an urban setting, so a lot of the kids enjoy this area because it's a little more quiet, a different pace."

Plus, Callahan added, "They enjoy the tradition here at Nebraska."

The travel roster included 16 of the 20 Cornhuskers from California: Congdon (San Diego), Culbert Harbor City, Dagunduro (Inglewood), Davis (Venice), Hickman (Bakersfield), Hildebrand (Corona), Holt (San Diego), Lucky (North Hollywood), Nicks (Salinas), Picou (Rialto), Purify (Eureka), Spain (San Diego), Teafatiller (Kingsburg), Thenarse (Los Angeles), Tomerlin (San Clemente) and Bryan Wilson (Granada Hills).

YOUNG MOVES UP

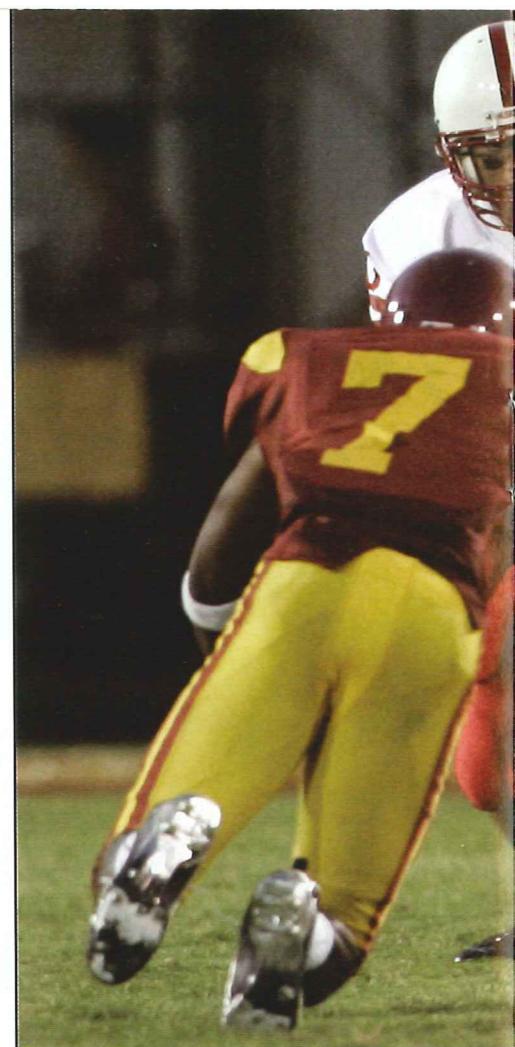
Speaking of recruiting, freshman Corey Young moved up to No. 2 at weak cornerback behind junior Cortney Grixby, in part because of his play on special teams. "He really did an outstanding job in coverage," Callahan said. "For such a young player, he's got a tremendous feel for the game, and I lot of it, I think, has to do with the program he comes out of." Young, among six true freshmen who have played this season, is from Omaha's Millard West High School.

"I know Coach (Fred) Petito has done a great job up there in Omaha. His program speaks for itself, the caliber of players that come from that program. They have great background. They're well-versed. They don't flinch. They know exactly what's going on."

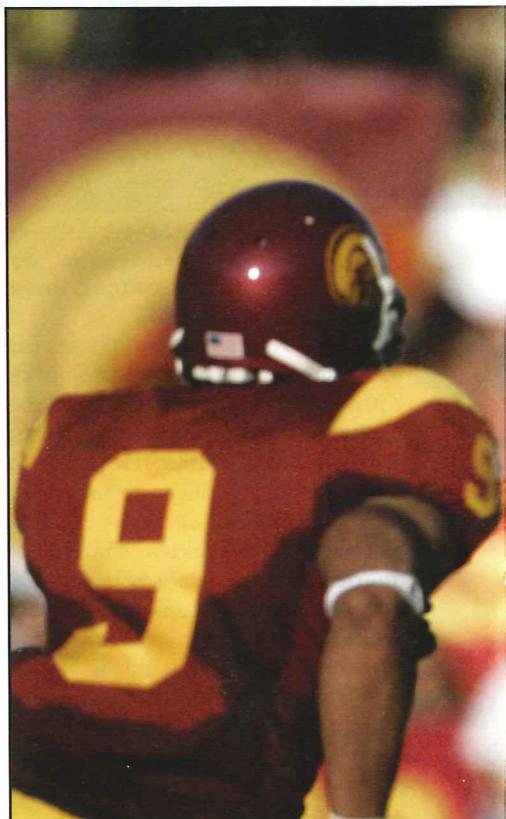
HEAD WEST

The game was a hot ticket, Southern California's fifth consecutive sellout at the Coliseum, dating to last season. By comparison, Nebraska has 277 home sellouts and counting.

The crowd of 92,000 included a significant number of Cornhusker fans, some of whom were resourceful in securing tickets. The Omaha World-Herald reported that 300 people with Nebraska zip codes purchased season tickets for the Trojans and another 3,000 purchased single-game tickets through USC. Nebraska's allotment of 4,000 was hardly sufficient to meet demand. ■



The game's only turnover came when Nebraska quarterback Matt Herian fumbled in the third quarter. USC cornerback Cary Harris recovered it at the 25-yard line.



The Huskers were successful on a fake punt, when Matt Herian fumbled in the third quarter. NU had a first down at the USC 36 but could not score.



Quarterback Zac Taylor (13) and I-back Marlon Lucky (20) missed connections on a handoff in the 1st quarter at the NU 31.



Wide receiver Todd Peterson (17) caught a 28-yard pass from punter Dan Titchener in the first quarter but didn't put any points on the scoreboard.

WHO STOOD OUT?

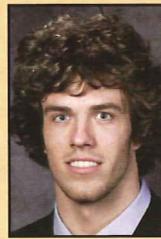
OFFENSE



Matt Herian

Senior tight end Matt Herian caught a 36-yard pass from Taylor on the final play of the third quarter to set up the touchdown. The catch was the 61st of Herian's career, tying the school record for a tight end held by Jerry List. Herian increased his career-receiving yardage to 1,228, tops among tight ends and third among all receivers, passing Irving Fryar.

DEFENSE

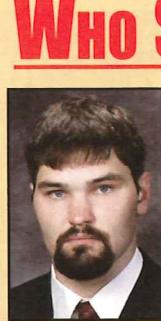


Stewart Bradley

Senior strongside linebacker Stewart Bradley was credited with a team-high 10 tackles and forced a fumble. Weakside linebacker Bo Ruud and middle linebacker Corey McKeon each made nine tackles.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Sophomore Dan Titchener punted three times, total, in the first two games. He punted five times against USC, averaging a net of 37.8 yards. His longest was a 50-yarder and he downed one inside the Trojans' 20-yard line. Oh yes, he also completed a surprise to wide receiver Todd Peterson for a 28-yard gain on the second possession. They faced fourth-and-2 from their own 36-yard line. They couldn't capitalize, however and Titchener was forced to punt four plays later.



Dan Titchener

INJURY REPORT

Marlon Lucky, who again started for the Cornhuskers at I-back, suffered an elbow injury. Even though he was subsequently cleared to play, he didn't carry in the second half. Just under 3 minutes into the game, USC fullback Ryan Powdrell suffered a dislocated ankle. Losing Powdrell limited the Trojans' running game, according to Nebraska coach Bill Callahan, forcing them to utilize more one-back sets.

GAME STATS

SCORING

Sept. 16, 2006
 Memorial Coliseum Los Angeles
 Attendance 92,000

	1	2	3	4	F
Nebraska	3	0	0	7	10
USC	7	7	7	7	28

First Quarter

	NU	USC
Congdon 38-yard Field Goal		
03:23	3	0
Drive: 4 plays 2 yds 0:59		

	USC	
Jarrett Pass from Booty 12-yards		
(Danelo Kick) 00:00	3	7
Drive: 9 plays 83 yds 3:23		

Second Quarter

	USC	
Smith Pass from Booty 3-yards		
(Danelo Kick) 02:52	3	14
Drive: 11 plays 71 yds 6:00		

Third Quarter

	USC	
Jarrett Pass from Booty 5-yards		
(Danelo Kick) 12:05	3	21
Drive: 4 plays 31 yds 1:55		

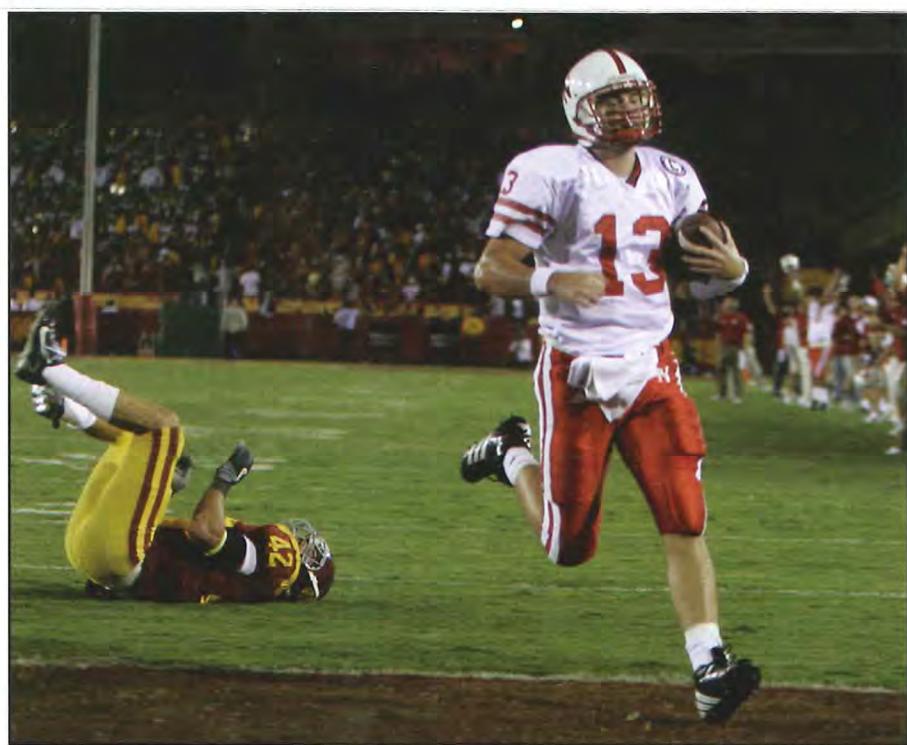
Fourth Quarter

	NU	
Taylor 1-yard Run		
(Congdon Kick) 12:44	10	21
Drive: 9 plays 74 yds 3:32		

	USC	
Washington 7-yard Run		
(Danelo Kick) 06:27	10	28
Drive: 14 plays 81 yds 6:17		

TEAM STATS

	NU	USC
Total First Downs	10	26
Rushing	3	8
Passing	7	15
Penalty	0	3
Rushing Attempts	36	31
Yards Gained Rushing	93	152
Yards Lost Rushing	25	10
Net Yards Rushing	68	142
Net Yards Passing	143	257
Passes Attempted	17	37
Passes Completed	9	25
Had Intercepted	0	0
Percent Completion	52.9%	67.6%
Yards per Attempt	8.4	6.9
Yards per Completion	15.9	10.3
Total Offensive Plays	53	68
Total Net Yards	211	399
Avg. Gain per Play	4.0	5.9
Fumbles: No-Lost	2-1	1-0
Penalties: No-Yards	5-51	7-46
Punts: No-Yards	5-193	4-167
Avg. Per Punt	38.6	41.8
Avg. Net Punt	37.8	35.0
Punt Returns: No-Yards	3-27	1-4
Kickoff Returns: No-Yards	2-37	3-43
Interception Ret.: No-Yards	0-0	0-0
Fumble Returns: No-Yards	0-0	0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	28:36	31:24
Third-Down Conversions	5-14	9-15
Percentage	35.7%	60.0%
Fourth-Down Conversions	2-3	1-2
Percentage	66.7%	50.0%
Sacks By: No-Yards	1-7	1-11



Zac Taylor scores Nebraska's only touchdown on a 1-yard run in the fourth quarter.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NEBRASKA

RUSHING						
No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	
Wilson	19	51	5	46	2.4	0
Lucky	10	27	0	27	2.7	0
Jackson	2	5	4	1	0.5	0
Taylor	5	10	16	-6	-1.2	1
Total	36	93	25	68	1.9	1

RUSHING						
No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	
Moody	9	70	0	70	7.8	0
Washington	12	52	0	52	4.3	1
Gable	6	25	3	22	3.7	0
Powdrell	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
Booty	3	5	7	-2	-0.7	0
Total	31	152	10	142	4.6	1

PASSING

	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Taylor	16	8	50.0	0	115	0	36
Titchener	1	1	100.0	0	28	0	28
Total	17	9	52.9	0	143	0	36

	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Booty	36	25	69.4	0	257	3	21
Turner	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Total	37	25	67.6	0	257	3	21

RECEIVING

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Herian	1	36	0	36
Jackson	4	36	0	22
Nunn	2	31	0	21
Peterson	1	28	0	28
Total	9	143	0	36

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Jarrett	11	136	2	21
Smith	6	53	1	20
McFoy	3	39	0	17
Davis	2	16	0	17
Reed	2	13	0	7
Gable	1	0	0	0
Total	25	257	3	21

PUNT RETURNS

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Nunn	3	27	0	31
Total	3	27	0	31

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Reed	1	4	0	4
Total	1	4	0	4

KICKOFF RETURNS

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Green	1	22	0	22
Jackson	1	15	0	15
Total	2	37	0	22

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Harris	3	43	0	43
Total	3	43	0	43

PUNTING

	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Titchener	5	38.6	50	0	0	1	1	1
Total	5	38.6	50	0	0	1	1	1

	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Woidneck	4	41.8	51	0	0	0	1	1
Total	4	41.8	51	0	0	0	1	1

FIELD GOALS

	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Congdon	1	1	38	0
Total	1	1	38	0

	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Total	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

DEFENSE

	Solo past	Tot	TFL	Sack	PD	FF	FR
Bradley	3	7	10	0.5-1	0-0	0	1-0
McKeon	4	5	9	0-0	0-0	0	0-0
Ruud	4	5	9	0-0	0-0	0	0-0
Grixby	4	3	7	0-0	0-0	1	0-0
Jones	5	2	7	0-0	0-0	1	0-0
Green	1	4	5	0-0	0-0	0	0-0
Bradenburgh	4	0	4	1-3	0-0	0	0-0
Steinkuhler	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	1	0-0
Carricker	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	1	0-0
Cryer	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0-0
Dagunduro	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0-0
Turner	1	1	2	0.5-0	0-0	0</	

2006 SEASON STATS

RUSHING

	G	No Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Lucky, Marlon	3	41	209	0	209	5.1	2	13
Wilson, Kenny	3	43	185	13	172	4.0	1	30
Glenn, Cody	3	24	135	0	135	5.6	3	18
Jackson, Brandon	3	12	70	4	66	5.5	1	25
Ganz, Joe	2	1	10	0	10	10.0	0	10
Taylor, Zac	3	10	21	21	0	0.0	1	8
TEAM	2	3	0	11	-11	3.7	0	0
								-5.5

PASSING

	G	Att	Comp	% Int	Yds	TD	Lg	YD/G
Taylor, Zac	3	72	49	68.1	1	604	7	201.3
Ganz, Joe	2	6	4	66.7	0	80	1	40.0
Titchener, Dan	3	1	1	100.0	0	28	0	9.3

RECEIVING

	G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Herian, Matt	3	8	135	16.9	2	36	45.0
Nunn, Terrence	3	10	107	10.7	0	21	35.7
Peterson, Todd	3	4	89	22.2	0	31	29.7
Purify, Maurice	3	3	89	29.7	1	42	29.7
Lucky, Marlon	3	5	67	13.4	0	19	22.3
Jackson, Brandon	3	7	61	8.7	0	22	20.3
Swift, Nate	3	3	46	15.3	0	21	15.3
Hardy, Frantz	3	3	38	12.7	1	14	12.7
Teafatiller, Hunter	3	1	29	29.0	1	29	9.7
Phillips, J.B.	3	5	25	5.0	1	10	8.3
Mueller, Josh	3	2	10	5.0	1	6	3.3
Todd, Dane	3	2	9	4.5	1	8	3.0
Erickson, Dan	3	1	7	7.0	0	7	2.3

PUNT RETURNS

	G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Nunn, Terrence	3	11	105	9.5	0	31	35.0
Swift, Nate	3	2	49	24.5	0	33	16.3
TEAM	2	1	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Bradley, Stewart	3	1	-1	-1.0	0	0	-0.3

KICKOFF RETURNS

	G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Green, Tierre	3	3	59	19.7	0	23	19.7
Jackson, Brandon	3	1	15	15.0	0	15	5.0

PUNTING

	G	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Titchener, Dan	3	9	40.1	53	0	1	2	2	3

FIELD GOALS

	G	Att	Made	Lg	Blkd
Congdon, Jordan	3	2	1	38	0

DEFENSE LEADERS

	G	Tack	Ast	Tot	TFL	Sack	PD	FF	FR
Bradley, Stewart	3	7	10	17	0-1	0-0	1	1	2
McKeon, Corey	3	9	8	17	1-2	0-0	0	0	0
Green, Tierre	3	8	6	14	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Gribby, Cortney	3	10	4	14	0-0	0-0	2	1	1
Ruud, Bo	3	5	9	14	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Carriker, Adam	3	3	8	11	2-8	1-7	1	0	0
Jones, Andre	3	5	4	9	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Octavien, Steve	3	5	4	9	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Shanle, Andrew	3	4	4	8	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Moore, Jay	3	5	2	7	3-16	1-10	1	0	0
Steinkuhler, Ty	3	6	1	7	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Eisenhardt, Ben	3	4	2	6	2-6	0-0	0	0	0
Erickson, Dan	3	2	4	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Turner, Barry	3	3	3	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
O'Hanlon, Matt	3	0	5	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Suh, Ndamukong	3	3	2	5	1-8	1-7	0	0	0

TEAM STATISTICS

	NU	OPP
Total First Downs	70	46
Rushing	36	18
Passing	33	25
Penalty	1	3
Total Net Yards	1293	891
Total Plays	213	171
Yards Per Play	6.1	5.2
Yards Per Game	431.0	297.0
Rushing Attempts-Yards	134-581	99-396
Yards Per Attempt	4.3	4.0
Yards Per Game	193.7	132.0
Pass Att.-Comp.-Int.	79-54-1	72-38-1
Passing Yards	712	495
Yards Per Completion	13.2	13.0
Yards Per Game	237.3	165.0
Punting: No.-Avg.	9-40.1	19-36.9
Fumbles-Lost	6-3	12-5
Penalties-Yards	13-116	18-117
Sacks By-Yds. Lost	3-24	2-16
Third-Down Conversions	23-42	17-42
Conversion Pct.	54.8	40.5
Fourth-Down Conversions	5-8	2-4
Conversion Pct.	62.5	50.0
Avg. Time Of Possession	32:29	27:31

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
Nebraska	24	28	21	42	0	115
Opponents	7	17	7	14	0	45

2006 RESULTS, SCHEDULE

1 Sept. 2	Louisiana Tech (0-1), W 49-10	1-0
2 Sept. 9	Nicholls State (1-1), W 56-7	2-0
3 Sept. 16	@USC (1-0), 7 p.m., L 28-10	2-1
4 Sept. 23	Troy (1-2), 6 p.m.	
5 Sept. 30	Kansas (2-1), TBA	
6 Oct. 7	@Iowa State (2-1), TBA	
7 Oct. 14	@Kansas State (3-0), TBA	
8 Oct. 21	Texas (2-1), TBA	
9 Oct. 28	@Oklahoma State (3-0), TBA	
10 Nov. 4	Missouri (3-0), TBA (Homecoming)	
11 Nov. 11	@Texas A&M (3-0), TBA	
12 Nov. 24	Colorado (0-3), 2:30 p.m., ABC	
Dec. 2	Big 12 Championship at Kansas City, Mo., 7 p.m., ABC	

SCOUTING REPORT

GAME 4

Troy Sept. 23

Location: Troy, Ala.

Enrollment: 22,000

2006 record: 1-2

Coach: Larry Blakeney,
16th year



Series: Nebraska leads 3-0

**6 p.m. CDT, Pay-per-view
Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Neb.**

Quick Facts

Troy is on a stretch of four consecutive road games — at Florida State, at Georgia Tech, at Nebraska and at UAB. The Trojans scared Florida State before falling 24-17 on Sept. 9 and were tied (14-14) with Georgia

Tech entering the fourth quarter.

Georgia Tech rushed for 320 yards, the most by an opponent since Nebraska gained 330 on Sept. 1, 2001 — Troy's first-ever game in Division I-A.

The Trojans attempted a school-record 48 passes against Florida State.

Trojan to Watch

Junior college transfer Omar Haugabook has completed 60.9 percent of his passes, throwing for 572 yards and six touchdowns in three games. He also has rushed for a pair of TDs. The 6-foot-2, 220-pound junior from Belle Glade, Fla., was a second-team All-American last season at Dodge City (Kan.) Community College.

BIG 12 AT A GLANCE

Friday, Sept. 15

Toledo 37, Kansas 31

Saturday, Sept. 16

USC 28, Nebraska 10

Iowa 27, Iowa State 17

Kansas State 23, Marshall 7

Oregon 34, Oklahoma 33

Texas 52, Rice 7

TCU 12, Texas Tech 3

Oklahoma State 48, Florida Atlantic 8

Arizona State 21, Colorado 3

Missouri 27, New Mexico 17

Texas A&M 28, Army 24

Washington State 17, Baylor 15

ON DECK

Kansas Sept. 30

Location: Lawrence, Kan.

Enrollment: 29,624

2006 record: 2-1

Coach: Mark Mangino,
5th year

Series: Nebraska leads 87-22-3

Time TBA

Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Neb.



TENTATIVE 2-DEEPS

NEBRASKA OFFENSE

WRX	87	Nate Swift*	6-2	195	So.
	7	Frantz Hardy*	6-1	180	Jr.
LT	54	Chris Patrick*	6-4	290	Jr.
	76	Lydon Murtha*	6-7	315	So.
LG	65	Greg Austin***	6-1	295	Sr.
	62	Andy Christensen	6-3	300	So.
C	59	Brett Byford	6-3	300	Jr.
	62	Andy Christensen	6-3	300	So.
RG	61	Mike Huff*	6-4	305	So.
	67	Jacob Hickman	6-4	280	Fr.
RT	70	Matt Slauson*	6-5	335	So.
	77	Carl Nicks	6-5	325	Jr.
TE	11	Matt Herian***	6-5	245	Sr.
	81	Josh Mueller**	6-5	265	Jr.
WRZ	83	Terrence Nunn**	6-0	185	Jr.
	17	Todd Peterson*	6-4	210	So.
QB	13	Zac Taylor*	6-2	210	Sr.
	8	Joe Ganz	6-1	200	So.
FB	41	Dane Todd***	5-11	235	Sr.
	42	Matt Senske	6-3	235	Jr.
IB	20	Marlon Lucky*	6-0	210	So.
	34	Cody Glenn*	6-0	230	So.
PK	29	Jordan Congdon*	5-11	175	So.

NEBRASKA DEFENSE

DE	44	Jay Moore*	6-4	280	Sr.
	99	Barry Turner*	6-3	250	So.
NT	54	Ola Dagunduro*	6-2	300	Sr.
	93	Ndamukong Suh	6-4	315	So.
DT	94	Barry Cryer*	6-2	280	Sr.
	43	Ty Steinkuhler*	6-3	280	So.
DE	90	Adam Carriger***	6-6	295	Sr.
	98	Zach Potter*	6-7	280	So.
SLB	34	Stewart Bradley***	6-4	245	Sr.
	88	Clayton Sievers*	6-4	240	So.
MLB	13	Corey McKeon*	6-1	225	Jr.
	40	Lance Brandenburgh**	6-1	230	Jr.
WLB	51	Bo Ruud**	6-3	235	Jr.
	15	Steve Octavien	6-0	240	Jr.
SCB	25	Andre Jones	6-0	195	Jr.
	23	Corey Young	6-0	195	Fr.
SS	30	Tierre Green**	6-1	200	Jr.
	6	Major Culbert	6-0	200	Fr.
FS	8	Andrew Shanle***	6-1	210	Sr.
	4	Rickey Thenarre	6-0	185	Fr.
WCB	2	Cortney Grixby**	5-9	170	Jr.
	18	Tyrell Spain	6-3	190	Jr.
P	97	Dan Titchener	6-0	200	So.

TROY OFFENSE

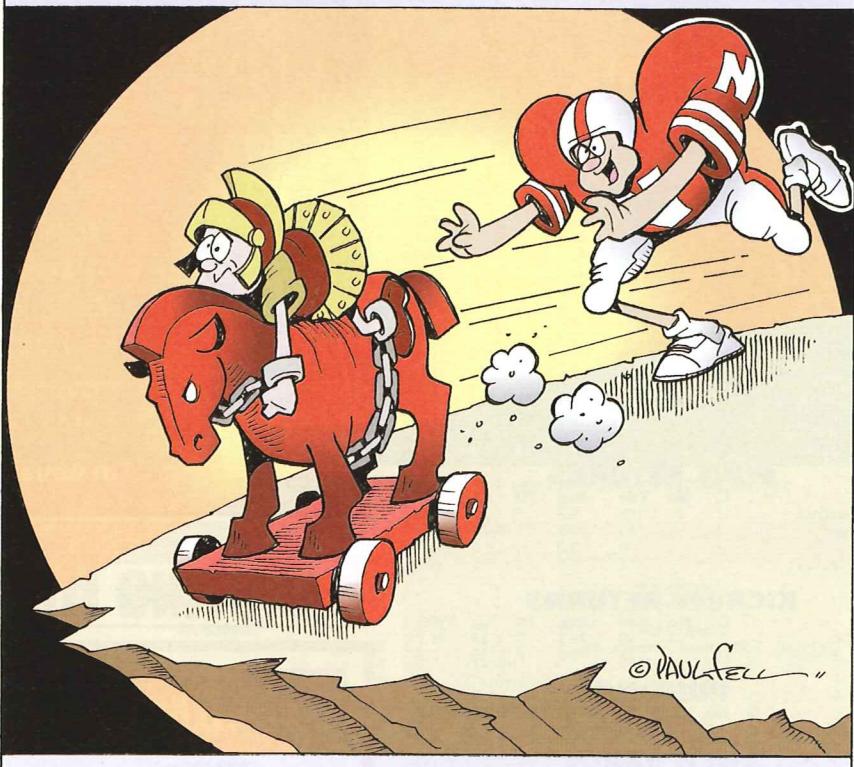
WRX	5	Smoky Hampton***	6-1	187	Sr.
	81	Mykeal Terry	5-10	175	So.
LT	79	Rob Austin***	6-5	267	Sr.
	66	Nic Riley	6-4	270	RFr.
LG	65	Chris Jamison*	6-3	285	So.
	69	Steven Merkel*	6-5	298	So.
C	63	Zach Yenser***	6-1	288	Sr.
	72	James Gardner***	6-3	311	Sr.
RG	72	James Gardner***	6-3	311	Sr.
	68	Will Chambliss*	6-6	292	So.
RT	71	Kirbie Bodiford***	6-4	315	Sr.
	62	Emeka Okosa*	6-3	320	So.
WRY	4	Toris Rutledge***	6-2	196	Sr.
	1	Cornelius Williams	6-1	180	Fr.
WRZ	8	Gary Banks**	6-0	201	Jr.
	84	Fred Turner*	5-8	173	So.
WRH	23	Mario East***	5-10	210	Sr.
	10	Gerald Tate	5-10	185	Jr.
QB	17	Omar Haugabook	6-0	201	Jr.
	16	Jonathan Chandler	6-1	190	Fr.
FB	80	Josh Allen*	5-11	195	Jr.
	36	Anthony Jones*	6-1	205	So.
PK	3	Greg Whibbs**	5-10	167	Jr.

TROY DEFENSE

BAN	51	Kenny Mainor*	6-4	216	So.
	11	Boo Smith***	6-0	231	Sr.
DT	92	Steve McLendon*	6-4	280	So.
	93	Marcus Pittman	6-4	290	Jr.
NT	74	Franklin Lloyd***	5-11	293	Sr.
	61	David Cain*	6-1	310	Jr.
RE	58	Shawn Todd*	6-3	252	Jr.
	91	Brandon Lang	6-5	220	Jr.
SLB	26	Marcus Richardson**	6-0	229	Jr.
	2	Martin Teal**	6-4	207	Sr.
MLB	24	Josh Maxwell**	6-0	204	Jr.
	30	Boris Lee	6-2	210	Fr.
WLB	35	Ryan Babb**	5-11	210	Sr.
	41	Romanique Lewis*	6-2	225	Jr.
LCB	34	Leodis McKelvin**	5-11	181	Jr.
	19	Justin Bray	5-11	170	Fr.
FS	15	Tavares Williams*	6-0	192	So.
	25	Derrick Pendergrass*	5-10	189	Sr.
SS	28	Brannon Condren***	6-1	204	Sr.
	20	Terence Moore*	6-2	210	So.
RCB	32	Henry Chubb*	5-10	186	So.
	13	Elbert Mack	5-10	165	Jr.
P	49	Jason Wright**	6-1	226	So.

THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION

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Troy @Nebraska Nebraska 37, Troy 16 Nebraska 31, Troy 13 Nebraska 47, Troy 6 Nebraska 47, Troy 17 Nebraska 27, Troy 14

Louisville @Kansas St. Louisville 27, Kansas St. 21 Louisville 42, Kansas St. 10 Louisville 42, Kansas St. 25 Louisville 45, Kansas St. 10 Louisville 35, Kansas St. 21

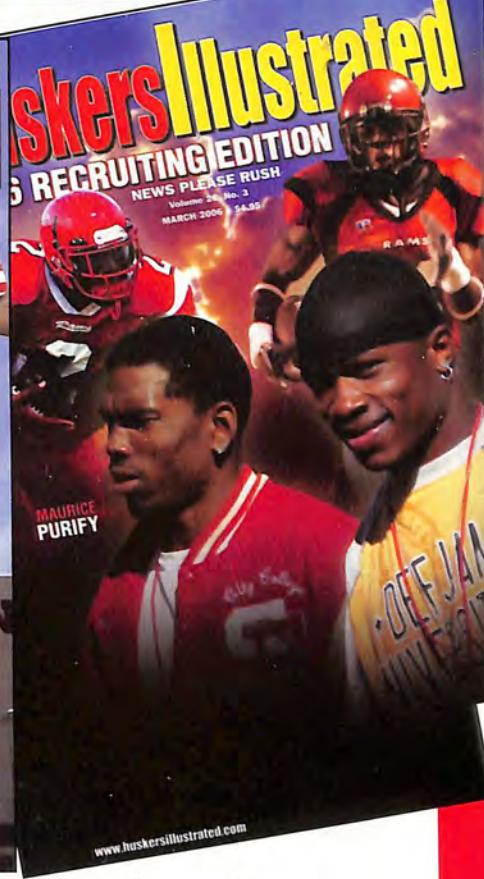
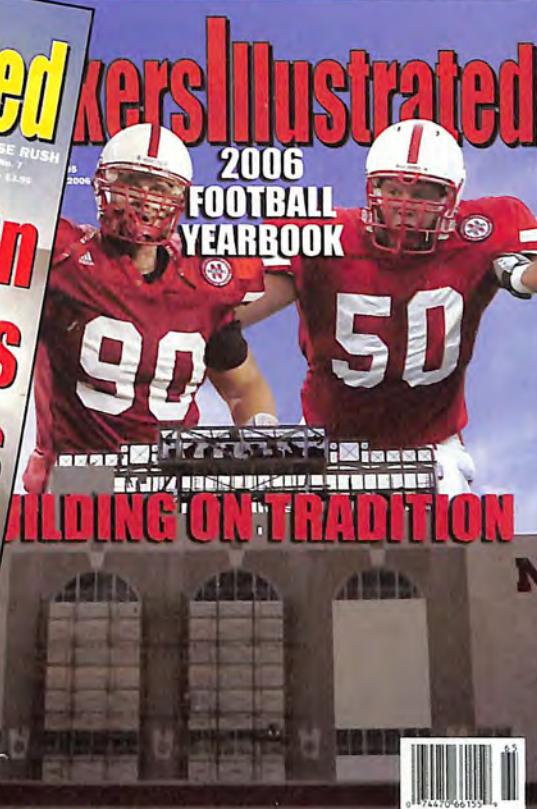
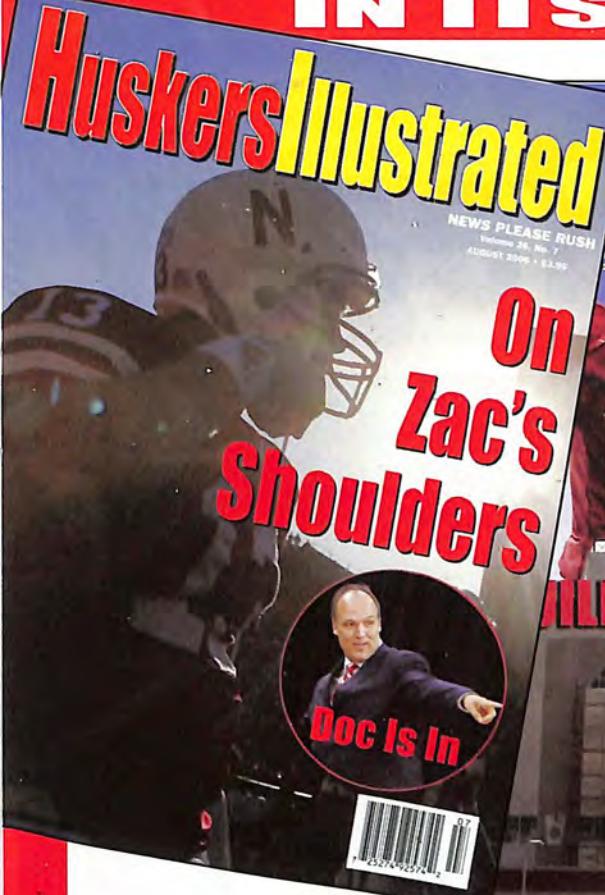
Iowa State @Texas Texas 38, Iowa St. 24 Texas 35, Iowa St. 7 Texas 50, Iowa St. 24 Texas 41, Iowa St. 20 Texas 44, Iowa St. 24

Notre Dame @Michigan Mich. St. 31, N. Dame 30 N. Dame 28, Mich. St. 17 N. Dame 37, Mich. St. 13 N. Dame 48, Mich. St. 31 N. Dame 38, Mich. St. 7

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Season	8-4	12-0	11-1	11-1	11-1

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... All The Time

Always Looking for Linemen

Top offensive line prospects from around country on NU's radar

By Rick Shaw

The Nebraska coaching staff made great strides in upgrading the talent on the offensive line in this last recruiting cycle. The Huskers signed six offensive linemen to letters of intent in February, including four from the high school ranks.

However, coach Bill Callahan and company aren't resting on their laurels as they continue to build the recruiting class of 2007. Though none



Guard Javario Burkes (left) and tackle Gerald Parker, are among the offensive line prospects considering Nebraska.

of their current 10 commitments are slated for offensive line duty, the Huskers are actively recruiting a number of top offensive line prospects from around the country.

Unlike last year, Nebraska will likely sign no more than three to four offensive line prospects in this class. What the Huskers may lack in quantity with this recruiting go-around,

they will likely make up for in quality, as many of the nation's top offensive line prospects are eyeing visits to Lincoln.

When talking Nebraska offensive line prospects, the discussion starts with Javario Burkes. The 6-foot-4, 310-pound offensive guard prospect from Phoenix, Ariz. (Moon Valley), is considered one of the top prep offensive linemen in the nation by various recruiting services. Rivals.com lists Burkes as the No. 6 offensive guard prospect in the country (four stars) and one of the top 250 prospects overall (regardless of position).

Burkes, a first-team all-state selection as a junior, already has garnered more than 40 scholarship offers from Division I programs. Georgia, Michigan, Oregon, Tennessee, Arizona State, Arizona and others have all gotten in line with Nebraska to try to lure Burkes to their respective

NEBRASKA COMMITMENTS FOR 2007

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	40	Hometown (School)
Anthony Blue	DB	5-10	172	4.57	Cedar Hill, Texas
Quentin Castille	RB	6-1	234	4.6	La Porte, Texas
Jared Crick	DE	6-6	245	4.8	Cozad, Neb.
Demetrious Davis	DT	6-2	286	5.22	St. Joseph, Mo. (Benton)
Ian Harris	TE	6-3	217	4.76	San Antonio, Texas (Churchill)
Ryan Hill	TE	6-3	230	4.7	Arvada, Colo. (West)
Niles Paul	WR	6-2	210	4.4	Omaha, Neb. (North)
Shawn Sullivan	DB	5-11	182	4.4	Brenham, Texas
DeAndre West	DB	6-1	195	4.4	Oakland, Calif. (Wilson Prep)
Patrick Witt	QB	6-4	215	4.95	Wylie, Texas

For more daily recruiting information, visit HuskersIllustrated.com, a member of the Rivals.com network.

campuses. However, it's Nebraska that may have a head start.

Burkes took an unofficial visit to Lincoln this past summer and already has scheduled an official visit to the Nebraska campus for late October.

"I'm going back to Nebraska on Oct. 20 to watch them play Texas," Burkes said. "That is my only scheduled visit so far, and it will likely be my first official visit that I take."

"I was up there this past summer, and their new facility is just ridiculous. It was crazy, and, I'm sure, it's the best out there. Also, I've talked to a lot of coaches during this process, but my favorite is probably coach (Bill) Busch because he's really been talking to me a lot."

Another big prospect from out West giving the Huskers a long, hard look is Gerald Parker. The 6-7, 285-pound offensive tackle prospect from Compton Community College in Compton, Calif., admits that Nebraska will be hard to beat.

"I think Nebraska is probably where I'm headed to when I finish school in December," Parker said. "I really do like Nebraska."

Parker, who also claims an offer from Southern Mississippi, is an athletic prospect at the tackle position. He has clocked 4.9 seconds in the 40-yard dash.

"He looks the part," Compton head coach Angelo Jackson said. "He is 6-foot-7, 285 pounds. He doesn't look 285, though. He has a nice size and nice build and athletic. He has a mean streak. I think he's going to be a nice college lineman, for sure."

Parker would like to visit Nebraska during the season, but it may not be until December and his season is over, before the big man from Compton makes his way to Lincoln.

Originally from New Orleans, Darrion Weems relocated to California after Hurricane Katrina. Now, the 6-6, 285-pound offensive tackle out of Woodland Hills, Calif. (Taft) is considered one of the top prospects in the state.

Rated the No. 24 prospect in California by Rivals.com (four stars), Weems is being recruited by a number of Division I programs from coast to coast. Arizona, Arizona State, Baylor, Boston College, Florida, UCLA, Oregon, Kansas and Utah are among a host of schools battling Nebraska for Weems' commitment.

RECRUITING NOTES

Week 2 Visitors Enjoy Lincoln

By Sean Stevens

Week 2 brought another easy Husker victory, but the rain and cool temperatures didn't make for ideal conditions for playing host to official visitors — especially players from the South. Things seemed to turn out very well for the home team, however.

Nebraska played host to just two official visitors — Rivals.com four-star running back Bo Williams of Oakland Park, Fla., and three-star inside linebacker Earl Patin of Baton Rouge, La.

The 6-foot-1, 228-pound Patin was a late addition to the visit list, finalizing his trip early in the week. He said before his visit that NU and the hometown LSU Tigers were neck and neck for his commitment. After the trip, he was singing a different tune.

"It was a '10' on a scale of 1-10," Patin said. "There were no negatives at all. Everything was great. Nebraska is No. 1 for me. I've been to LSU on a couple of unofficial visits, and Nebraska beats them in almost every way . . . the people here, the fans, the academics, the facilities . . . everything."

He also seemed to form a bond with Williams.

"Bo is cool," Patin said. "We got a chance to bond a little bit while we were there. We talked about playing together at Nebraska the whole time we were there. We got along real well. It was just a great weekend."

Williams also enjoyed his visit. The 6-1, 205-pounder was concerned about whether Nebraska still ran the ball as it had in the past. Those fears were put to rest.

"There are rumors down South that Nebraska doesn't run the football anymore," he said. "That's bogus. I've seen it. All of the running backs got to run the football, and they were running it behind the fullback a lot of the time. They are bringing the tradition back."

Williams echoed Patin's comments that the two prospects got along well.

"Earl and I talked a lot throughout the weekend," Williams said. "He's a great guy and definitely somebody I like to be around. The possibility of playing together at Nebraska came up a few times. We're going to keep in touch and keep each other updated."

Williams rated the visit a 10 and said that he's very excited about NU.

"Chances are real high that I end up at Nebraska," he said. "The people at Nebraska are just amazing. I wanted it to feel like home, and it felt like home. Everything was great about Nebraska."

● The game at Southern California was a test for the Huskers on the field, but it also was very important in recruiting. It's no secret that coach Callahan and his staff have put an emphasis on recruiting the Golden State.

Players from California who list the Huskers high include running back Roy Helu of Danville (who visited NU for the Louisiana Tech game), and Rivals.com four-star players — offensive tackle Darrion Weems of Woodland Hills, center Matt Summers-Gavin of San Francisco, defensive end Kenny Rowe of Long Beach, defensive tackle DaJohn Harris of Gardena and athletes Anthony Boyles of Gardena and Malachi Lewis of Oxnard. ■



Bo Williams



Earl Patin

Currently, Oregon appear to be in the driver's seat for Weems' services, but Nebraska is in good shape to play host to the talented lineman on a visit sometime this fall.

"I'll probably take visits to Oregon, Florida, maybe Arizona State, Nebraska, and I don't know," Weems said. "That's just four, but those teams are all in my top group."

"I like Nebraska. Their offensive line coach has told me that I could be a dominant force at the next level. I know that they have a good offensive line tradition, too."

Markus Zusevics is one prospect from the Midwest hoping to visit Lincoln sometime soon. The 6-5, 255-pound offensive tackle prospect out of Mt. Prospect, Ill., has had Nebraska close to or in the lead for his services for several weeks. He hopes to find time in his schedule to travel south and check out the Nebraska campus before Halloween.

"I have a visit set to Purdue for Sept. 23," Zusevics said. "Nebraska is the next one that I need to get set up. I just need to call coach (Kevin)



Darrion Weems

Markus Zusevics

Matt Summers-Gavin

Cosgrove this week to get the dates worked out, and then I'll be good to go.

"I'd like to come in and see the town, take in a game and see how exciting it is there during the football season. I've heard a lot about the atmosphere and how big football is to the people that live there. I'm real excited about Nebraska and have been from the beginning."

Zusevics was named a first-team all-conference player as a junior in 2005. Rated the No. 10 prospect (three stars) in Illinois by Rivals.com, Zusevics lists Nebraska, Purdue and Iowa as his current favorites.

The top center prospect in the country, Matt Summers-Gavin, has an offer from the Huskers to go along

with offers from most of the rest of the country. The 6-5, 270-pound prospect out of San Francisco (St. Ignatius Prep) already has scheduled a visit to Notre Dame for the end of this month. He also, however, is strongly considering a visit to Lincoln.

"I'm not aware of Nebraska's academic situation yet," Summers-Gavin said, "but, I know they're definitely a prestigious program located in a real football town, which is something I would enjoy. They're a school I am paying attention to and am definitely interested in."

Rated the No. 69 player in the country (at any position), by Rivals.com, Summers-Gavin will likely take all of his allotted five official visits before making a final college decision.

Although Nebraska will likely sign around half the number of offensive line prospects as it did last year, it appears to be in good position to lure a few more "big men" to Lincoln. ■

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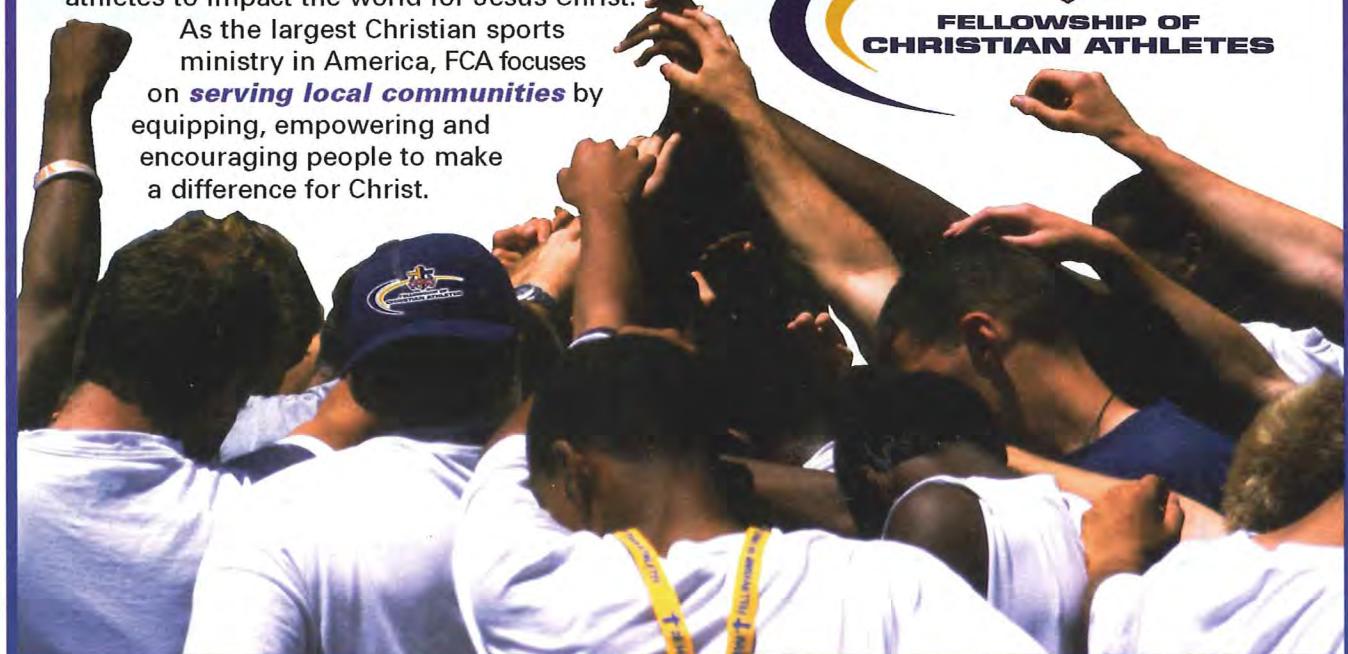
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FRONT

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It's Her Turn

Larson knows her team needs more from her this time around

By Todd Henrichs

With more responsibility, it would seem that Jordan Larson would be feeling more pressure in her sophomore season.

Instead, it is Nebraska's opponents who are feeling the heat. Larson, who was solid in her freshman year with the Huskers, began this season hitting harder, jumping higher and producing big for a top-ranked Nebraska team in need of her best all-around effort.

"Last year, my role was to be there whenever needed," Larson said. "This year, they're a little more dependent on me."

"Now, going up and knowing you've got to kill the ball, I just think it's more a change in mentality. I know it's my turn to step up to the plate."

Larson has done so in a big way, helping to lead a Nebraska team that sprinted from the gate with seven consecutive victories at home — six in sweeps — despite breaking in a new setter, a first-time libero and an inexperienced middle blocker.

Larson's kills per game average was up nearly 50 percent, climbing from 2.82 a year ago to 4.18 as Nebraska entered Big 12 play. Her hitting percentage of .315 was solid considering opposing defenses are now concentrating more on shutting down the Logan View High School graduate.

But Larson's best attribute may be her all-around talent. Few players in the country are as dangerous from



Scott Bruhn
Outside hitter Jordan Larson was the Big 12 Freshman of the Year and AVCA Central Region Freshman of the Year in 2005.

behind the service line, where Larson accumulated 18 aces in the early going.

Defensively, Larson was averaging

close to four digs per game.

"If you look at outside hitters in the country, it's difficult to find those all-around players," said Nebraska

head coach John Cook. "Jordan is showing she's an exceptional defensive player, we know she's a great attacker, her blocking has improved dramatically, and she has one of the best jump serves in the country."

"We need her to be a big-time player to help balance out Sarah."

It's no secret that with the loss of national player of the year Christina Houghtelling to injury that Larson and junior Sarah Pavan will have to carry a much bigger load this season. Not only will they be counted on to get kills from the front-row but to produce when they are in the back-row as well.

When both are on, Nebraska can be devastating offensively as was the case in impressive early wins over Saint Mary's and Louisville. In those matches, Pavan and Larson pro-

duced kills on 59 percent of their attacks.

Through seven matches, Pavan was hitting .380 while averaging 5.5 kills a game. Combined, Pavan and Larson are getting 16 more attack opportunities each match over what they averaged last season.

"They're like running backs who like to get the ball 30 times a game," Cook said. "They're going to be getting a lot of opportunities to terminate plays. They're going to have a lot more chances to touch the ball passing."

Those opportunities are what spur Larson, who isn't only about attacking and serving.

"When I was younger, I looked up to outside hitters who could play in the back-row," Larson said. "You don't see as many of those players today. I think it's cool that you can play all the way around."

"I definitely challenged myself to do that."

Although Larson doesn't dwell on it, there's no doubting that her performance in last year's national championship match was a source of motivation in the offseason.

On that fateful night in San Antonio when top-ranked Nebraska

was swept by Washington, Larson lived her own nightmare of sorts. In 20 swings, she produced one lone kill, a percentage made even worse when you threw in her five attack errors.

In many ways, Larson was a victim of her own team's poor ballhandling against the Huskies. This summer, Larson said she focused on getting better at "all the little things."

In the weight room, she worked closely with volleyball strength coach Laura Pilakowski, herself a former All-American at outside hitter, to get stronger physically. Her back, which gave her troubles at different times last season, is better.

"My vertical increased three inches, and I would assume I'm hitting the ball harder," Larson said, confirming what anyone who has watched Nebraska play this season already knew.

"This summer, working hard with Laura on being more explosive lifting and running, I think that really helped me to get an edge. I can tell a difference when I go out and play." ■

Todd Henrichs covers the Nebraska volleyball team for the Lincoln Journal Star. He can be reached at 473-7439 or thenrichs@journalstar.com

RESULTS, SCHEDULE

Aug. 29 San Diego W 3-0

Labor Day Tournament At Lincoln, Neb.

Sept. 1 St. Mary's W 3-0
Sept. 2 Middle Tennessee St. W 3-0
Sept. 3 Long Beach State W 3-0

Players Challenge At Lincoln, Neb.

Sept. 8 Louisville W 3-0
Sept. 9 Cal Poly W 3-0
Sept. 10 Minnesota W 3-1

Sept. 13 Kansas W 3-0
Sept. 16 @Oklahoma 7 p.m.
Sept. 20 Iowa State 7 p.m.
Sept. 23 Texas Tech TBA
Sept. 24 @Creighton 2 p.m.
Sept. 30 @Baylor TBA
Oct. 4 Kansas State 7 p.m.
Oct. 7 @Texas A&M
Oct. 11 @Missouri 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 14 Colorado 7 p.m.
Oct. 18 @Texas 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 25 Missouri 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 28 @Kansas State 7 p.m.
Nov. 1 @Texas Tech 7 p.m.
Nov. 4 Oklahoma TBA
Nov. 8 @Iowa State 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 11 @Colorado 8 p.m.
Nov. 15 Texas A&M 7 p.m.
Nov. 18 Baylor 7 p.m.
Nov. 22 @Kansas 7 p.m.
Nov. 25 Texas 7 p.m.

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James Clow won the third annual Lincoln Cup championship in preparation for his senior season at Nebraska.

Scott Bruun

Family Line

Husker tennis player Clow learned game from his uncle back home in South Africa

BY KATELYN KERKHOVE

For some reason, James Clow will not step on the lines.

No matter if he's bending down to pick up a tennis ball, walking back to serve or celebrating a match point, he will not step on the white court lines.

The only logical explanation for this superstitious act the Nebraska senior tennis player could think of has to do with his uncle, John Yuill.

Actually, the fact that Clow is on the court at all has to do with his uncle.

"Literally, every time I play tennis, (my uncle is) in my head," Clow said. "Every shot I play it's because he

taught me if I'm in a certain position that's when I play that shot. I'm pretty much like a living, breathing version of him."

A professional tennis player for South Africa in his prime, Clow's uncle has lived and breathed tennis his entire life. In his 10-year professional career, he worked his way up to a No. 48 world ranking.

Now, he's coaching at the Mitchell Park Tennis Club in South Africa, where Clow, at 7-years-old, learned to play.

While the two may have different technical skills — Clow's forehand is better than his backhand, while his uncle's is the opposite — Clow said

that it is because of watching his uncle play that he was so interested in the sport. But it's also because of his uncle that he didn't start before age 7.

"I was kind of born into it, I guess. It's a family thing," Clow said. "I actually wanted to start playing younger than 7, but my uncle wouldn't let me. He said if you start too young, you could lose your passion for it. He says that before 7 you can't really get into it too much because the hand-eye coordination isn't there."

By age 15, however, Clow was ready to make his own decisions.

Giving up the many other sports in which he participated — cross country, cricket, rugby and swimming — Clow decided to focus on tennis. While his first two years didn't go necessarily as planned, over a two-month period when he was 17, "everything clicked."

Clow worked his way up from a No. 35 ranking among South African Juniors to seventh, and then to the middle of the United States to become

a Cornhusker.

"I always knew that the college system here is better than in South Africa," Clow said. "There is no competitive college system in South Africa, so if you want to continue playing you have to come to the United States. It's a low-profile sport there; not a lot of money is allocated to it."

Picking his college over the Internet, Clow said he was lucky with his choice.

After graduating high school in December — South African schools go from January to November — Clow said in a month, he went from staying home to train to coming Nebraska.

In the two and a half years he has been here, he hasn't once regretted his decision.

"I literally had no idea what Nebraska was like before I came," Clow said. "When I think about it, I realize I could have picked some horrendous, small school in Arkansas or something."

Clow said he's made some of his best friends since becoming a Husker, one of which is assistant coach Joerge

WARM-UP TITLE

Clow won the third annual Lincoln Cup championship in preparation for his senior season at Nebraska. He defeated Cornhusker sophomore teammate Hendrick Stahmer in the second round 6-2, 6-3 and former Cornhusker Fungai Tongona in the third round 6-1, 6-2, then defeated University of Nebraska at Kearney coach Jesse Plotz in the finals, coming from behind, 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-1).

Nebraska is scheduled to begin singles competition at the ITA All-American Tournament in Tulsa, Okla., on Sept. 30. The Region V Tournament also is in Tulsa, Oct. 19-24.

WOMEN IN THE FALL

The Husker women were slated to begin fall competition at the Minnesota Invitational on Sept. 15. Junior Imke Reimers was No. 106 in the ITA national rankings the week before. Reimers, who is from Popenburg, Germany, had a 25-9 singles record as a sophomore, tying for fifth on Nebraska's season single-wins list. She finished as the No. 2 player in the Huskers' singles lineup.

Barther. Clow's roommate as well as friend, Barther says that Clow has a very different personality off the court than he has on it.

A "friendly guy" in normal situations, Clow becomes something quite different when he plays, Barther said. And even Clow agreed that he gets a little bit more vocal.

"He changes completely when he gets on the court," Barther said. "We call him a 'bull terrier' on the court. Off the court he's a really nice person, wouldn't kill a fly, but once he gets on the court he just wants to beat you —

badly."

Although Clow's uncle has never come to Nebraska to see his nephew play, Clow said he keeps in touch with his family as much as possible and is planning a trip back home in May.

For now, however, Clow is focusing on his final year as a Husker, and Barther said it should be a successful one.

"I'm 100 percent confident he'll get a national ranking this year," Barther said. "I'd put money on it, but I can't." ■

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SOCER



Senior forward Brittany Timko recorded the fourth hat trick of her career to lead the Nebraska soccer team to a 3-2 win over North Texas Sept. 8 at the NU Soccer Field. Above, Timko (17) is congratulated by freshmen Brittany Lanier (12) and Anna Caniglia after the first of her three goals. Timko moved within one hat trick of tying Nebraska's all-time career record of five set by Kim Engesser (1997-1998). Below, sophomore defender Kellie Jensen (31) tries to make the steal from North Texas' Dani Slavonic (3). (PHOTOS BY SCOTT BRUHN)

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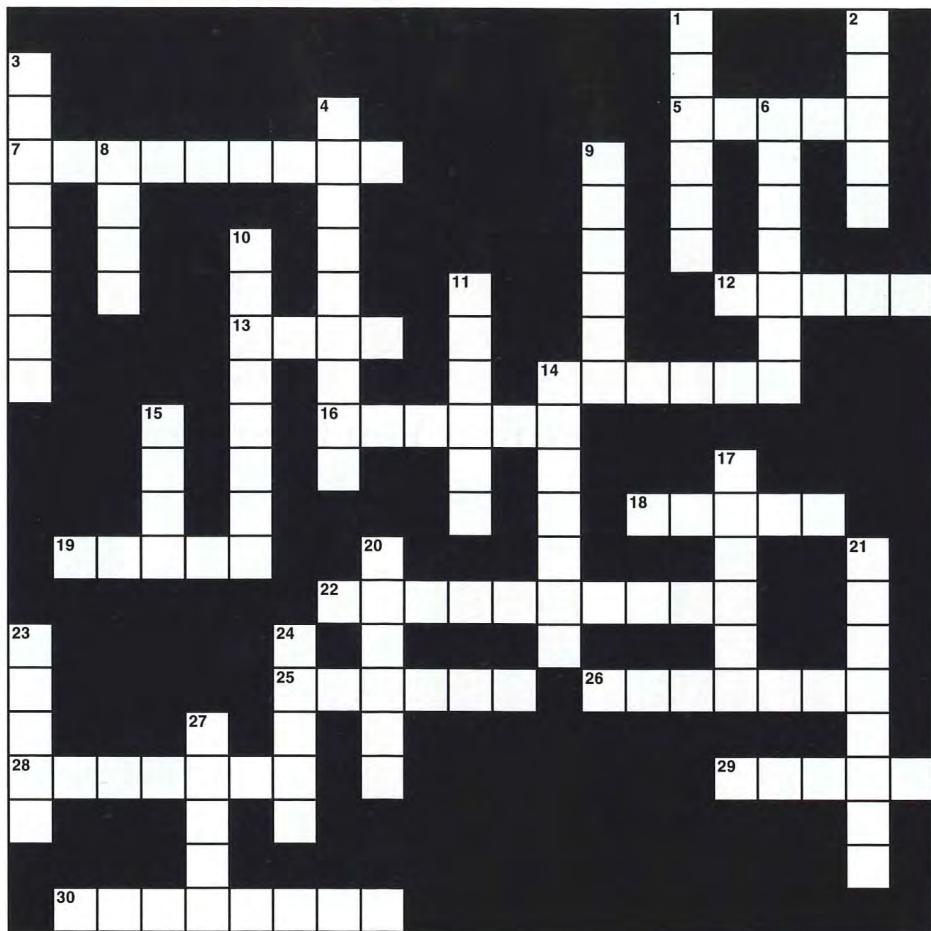
ACROSS

5 Radio color commentator
 7 Stadium for Big 12 title game
 12 2002 All-American
 13 Scored first career TD vs. Nicholls State
 14 Kris Brown's NFL team
 16 Season scoring leader
 18 Mike Brown's NFL team
 19 Kicked 7 field goals vs. Missouri in 1985
 22 First Husker selected in 2005 NFL Draft
 25 Played baseball and football at NU
 26 Wears No. 54 (offense)
 28 State Troy is located in
 29 Rushed for 2 touchdowns vs. Nicholls State
 30 Homecoming opponent

DOWN

1 Starting center vs. Nicholls State
 2 Defensive line coach
 3 Josh Brown's NFL team
 4 Wears No. 54 (defense)
 6 1993 Butkus Award winner
 8 Career tackle leader
 9 Matt Herian's hometown
 10 Wears No. 15 (defense)
 11 Leader in receiving yards vs. Nicholls State
 14 Troy nickname
 15 Radio play-by-play announcer
 17 Offensive line coach
 20 Opponent in Big 12 opener
 21 Troy head coach
 23 Only 4-time all-conference selection
 24 Oct. 21 opponent
 27 Wears No. 15 (offense)

Answers in Sept. 30 issue



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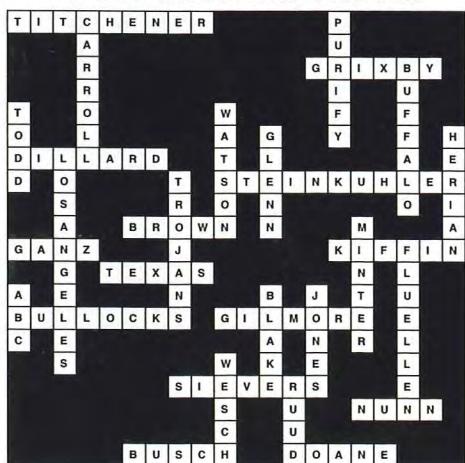
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Closing The Gap?

Callahan says Huskers still have 'a long way to go'



Mike Babcock

FANS ALONG THE WALLS on either side of the ramp that led to the tunnel in the southwest corner of the field at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum looked down on the players as they exited. Some of the fans, a majority probably, applauded politely for Nebraska. But a few were much less hospitable.

"You suck," one said, snapping a photo with a small silver camera as he yelled.

From the other side, a more demonstrative man wearing a No. 3 USC jersey tugged at the front of the jersey and pointed to the number as he screamed at the Cornhuskers: "We are SC, baby."

A young boy, his son perhaps, looked on.

Earlier, as the game clock went under 5 minutes, a man wearing red and standing on the sideline near the area of Nebraska's bench asked a USC yell leader if he could take her picture.

"Don't do it," someone shouted from the stands. "He's from Nebraska."

"They don't have women like that in Nebraska," another replied.

To hear some USC fans, you wouldn't have known the Trojans had won two national titles in the past three seasons and could be making a run at a third. Their insecurity was showing.

The truth is, USC is good enough to make such a run — or pass. And that should be taken into account when evaluating Nebraska's 28-10 loss. During his weekly news conference on Tuesday, coach Bill Callahan summarized the significance of the game, win or lose.

A single game wouldn't define the season, he said.

"It's important to us. We want to do well. We want to measure ourselves against a great football team, a great program, and then take that into the next game, into conference play."

The Cornhuskers go into every game expecting to win. But beyond that, their goal is to win the Big 12 North Division and play in the conference championship game in Kansas City. "We remain focused on that," said Callahan. The players "know exactly what our goals are."

The USC game would provide "an opportunity to measure ourselves," he said.

It also was a prime-time opportunity to return to national prominence. ABC television was on hand. And ESPN's GameDay was telecast just outside the east gates, before moving inside.

ESPN dubbed the day "Separation Saturday," with seven games involving teams (both of them) ranked in the Top 25 in the Associated Press poll. USC was No. 4, Nebraska No. 19.

The Cornhuskers were among those separated, along with No. 2-ranked Notre Dame, which was embarrassed by No. 11 Michigan, at home in South Bend no less, by 47-21.

That was the most lopsided of the separation losses, followed by No. 17 Miami's 31-7 loss against a No. 12 Louisville team trying to be taken as a serious championship contender.

The other separation games were: No. 3 Auburn 7, No. 6 LSU 3; No. 7 Florida 21, No. 13 Tennessee 20; No. 18 Oregon 34, No. 15 Oklahoma 33; and No. 20 TCU 12, No. 24 Texas Tech 3.

Texas Tech 3 points? Check that score again. The times they are a'changin'.

Callahan declined to answer a question about whether he thought the Cornhuskers were able to compete at USC's level. "I'll leave that to you," he replied.

"We continue to close the gap. We've got a long way to go."

USC is a tough standard. The Trojans are on a three-season roll, which isn't surprising since they've had the nation's highest-ranked recruiting class in four of the last five years and finished third in the other year. Their talent is such that "if you don't compete, you're sitting on the pine," Callahan said.

The Trojans' defense was swift and stifling. "They're a great team. They have a lot of talent," said junior quarterback Zac Taylor. Even so, "we could have made it a closer game."

"We just shot ourselves in the foot. We felt confident we could hang around, that we could make a game out of it. We just didn't take advantage of our opportunities."

With the loss, the Cornhuskers won't be undefeated now. And they run the risk of sliding back out of the national conscious, at least briefly. Little else has changed, however. Callahan is upgrading the talent through recruiting. And the program remains on the right track.

For a week at least, it seemed like old times. Nebraska enjoyed attention once commonplace. The venue was perfect, historic Los Angeles Memorial Stadium, with a field running an uncommon east and west, against a dramatic backdrop of the San Gabriel Mountains to the north. After the sun had set and darkness had enveloped the area, the Olympic torch burned atop the east entrance. ■



Bill Callahan stressed that one game wouldn't define the season.



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